

フレッシュプリキュア!

小説
フレッシュプリキュア!



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The Fresh Pretty Cure Novel!

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Chapter 1 - Fresh Pretty Cure, Again!

This is Yotsuba Town, Clover Town Street. It used to be called Yotsuba Machi Shopping District, but it was changed to its current name a few years ago in response to the town's revitalization boom. But even though the name has changed, the people who live there remain the same. The old lady at the candy shop, the older man at the soba shop, the old man at the fish shop, and the woman at the flower shop are all living happily. A year has passed since the battle with Labyrinth. Momozono Love, Aono Miki, and Yamabuki Inori were in their third year of junior high school.

"Ugh, it's cold!"

Momozono Love suddenly raises the temperature of the heater. The kogarashi* is banging on the window. Staring at it blankly, Love thinks that winter is going to arrive soon. She doesn't like being hot, but also doesn't like being cold.

She hears Yamabuki Inori's voice next to her.

Ah, that's right. Buki's visiting...

Inori's voice, which is distant at first, gradually becomes louder.

"Hey, Love, are you listening!?"

"Ehh!"

Love comes back to her senses when she hears that voice. When she looks over, she sees Inori, with her entrance exam reference book open, looking anxiously into Love's dazed face. Suddenly Love remembers. *Buki didn't come to hang out, but to help me with my studies.*

"Ah...sorry, what's wrong?"

"What do you mean what's wrong, look!" Inori shoves the notebook, which is covered in bright red ink, back at Love.

"Here, here, and here, what do you think about those answers?"

*kogarashi: a kind of strong wind in Japan between late autumn and early winter

“Ehhh, seriously?”

Thinking that this isn't good, Love notices that she is losing more and more motivation. Then, she hears the sound of footsteps approaching from the stairs. Love's eye's involuntarily start to sparkle.

Those footsteps!

As Love expects, there is a knock on the door and Love's mother, Ayumi, brings a tray of donuts and a cup of tea. She shows up with donuts on top.

"Hey, why don't you two take a breather?"

Nice timing! As expected of my mother! Love shouts in her heart and stretches out. "Ahhhhhh! Well, let's take a break. Buki!"

"Sure" Inori closes her reference book and she thanks Ayumi. "Thank you. I'll have one."

The donut has a heart-shaped hole in it.

"Wow! Kaoru's donuts! Looks delicious!"

"Now, Love will suddenly feel better."

"Ehehe!"

Ahead of her high school entrance exam, Love is studying with Inori for the entrance exam, but Inori has ended up becoming a kind of tutor for Love. Inori is going to take the entrance exam for a high school affiliated with a university that has a veterinary department, and after helping Love study, she goes back to her house and studies for her own entrance exam.

"I'm sorry, you also have to study for her own entrance exams, but still take the time to help and teach Love." Ayumi feels bad about that and apologizes to Inori, who is eating one of the delicious donuts.

"Ah, no...don't worry about it."

Inori stops eating the donut and waves *no, no* to Ayumi, and when she sees Love stuffing her mouth with delicious donuts, she smiles.

"Actually, Love also helps me with various entrance exams. That's why we're mutual friends!"

"That's right, Mom! So you don't have to worry about it!"

"Sure, sure!" Ayumi butts in. "Well, good luck to you both." Ayumi leaves, leaving Love and Inori alone again.

Inori sees that Love has run out of all motivation for studyings, so she gives up on the idea and just enjoys chatting with Love. They talk about a variety of topics, from what they saw on TV yesterday, to how they would like to go to a newly opened sweets shop, and before they know it, the girls naturally start talking about their best friend.

"But I was surprised when Miki said she wasn't going to take the high school entrance exam!"

"Yeah...I never thought she was going to go to beauty school instead of going to high school."

Both Love and Inori thought that Miki was aiming to become a world-class top model, so when they first heard from Miki that she would be taking over her mom's hair salon, they couldn't believe their ears.

"Are you sure that's okay?"

"Yeah! I thought about it before deciding! I'll be the perfect hairdresser!"

"I see. Well then, I won't stop you!"

"Right! I believe that you can do it, Miki!"

After Love and Inori's question time was over, Miki asked Love, as if it's her turn now.

"Hey, on that note, Love!"

"Yeah?"

"What happened with Daisuke after all that?"

"What do you mean?"

"You're so clueless!"

"Well...I'm not saying!"

"Oh, wait a minute! Love!"

"Ahahahaha!"

Miki answered Love's straightforward question with a smile without hesitation. If it was Miki's decision, then both Love and Inori will support her. However, Inori's true feelings are — *Miki, is that really okay...*

And the two of them talk about another close friend who is far away.
"Now that I think about it, Setsuna is now...AHHH!"

Love is about to start talking when she suddenly looks out the window and screams. Out the window, Love is staring at Tarte and Chiffon, who are looking into the room.

"Seriously! It's a terrible thing to look into a girl's room like that!"

When Love opens the window, Tarte and Chiffon jump onto the donuts on the tray faster than the gusts of wind blowing in.

"Isn't it a terrible thing that you're hiding out and eating donuts while we aren't around?"

"Chaika! Pripa!"

"What do you mean hiding? I wouldn't say anything bad about...
Ah—! That's my donut."

"No, there are two."

"Then I'll give one of mine to Chiffon!"

"Curea! Biggie!" Over the past year, Chiffon has become able to speak quite a lot. When Inori gives Chiffon a donut, she can't help but narrow her eyes.

"Hehe...Chiffon didn't speak the Kansai dialect...she learned Sweets instead!"

"Already kanasika? Curea! Me me!" Chiffon speaks the newly learned words while happily eating the donut. However, it seems that she still doesn't know how to use them properly. Tarte and Chiffon are still traveling back and forth between Love's world, the Sweets Kingdom, and Labyrinth. According to Tarte, Setsuna is working hard with Soular and Westar to make Labyrinth a country full of happiness.

"I want to fill Labyrinth with smiles, just like the people of this town." Those were the words Setsuna told Love and the others on the day she decided to leave Clover Town Street. That is now about to come true.

Everyone is doing their best... Buki is studying for the entrance exam to become a veterinarian. Miki decided to take over her mom's hair salon. Setsuna is trying her best to bring back smiles to the people of Labyrinth. Everyone is working hard towards their dreams for the future. To grasp each person's happiness in their own hands. But what about me? What is happiness for me? Right now, I'm happy to be able to have fun with my family and friends, but what about the future...? Love is still unsure about her future dreams.

After school

Love is in the procurement office with her homeroom teacher, Manami Fuji. From then on, the two of them will discuss Love's future path

one on one. Love isn't the only problem child and isn't anything unusual. Today is Love's turn to do the individual interview that everyone in the class has to do.

"I'll buy you some juice. Which one would you like?" Ms. Manami asks Love as she holds her wallet in front of her vending machine,

"Yay! Uhhh, peach!"

Ms. Manami buys some juice and takes Love to her empty classroom, where she talks to Love about her future career path.

"A dream for the future? You're still a junior high school student, so I don't think there's any need to rush."

"Isn't it—"

"Ms. Momozono still has infinite possibilities, and I don't think it would be too late for her to think about it after entering high school, right?"

Ms. Manami urges Love, who seems unconvinced.

"That's right—...but..."

"But what?"

"Miki and Buki...Ah! All of my friends around me have decided their dreams for the future, and I feel like I'm in a hurry...I have to work hard so I can happiness get!"

"Happiness, get?"

"Huh...? Oh! Just like you, Ms. Manami!" Love congratulates Ms. Manami with a happy smile as if it's her own happiness. "You have a fiancé, right? You're getting married next year, right? You're going to be super happy!"

"Oh, my story has nothing to do with this!" Although she's confused, Ms. Manami finally gives in.

"Ah, you're grinning."

"I'm not grinning!"

"Hahaha!"

Ms. Manami can't help but get mad at Love and her face turns red, and Love starts laughing heartily.

"More than that!"

As if to end that private conversation, Ms. Manami shows Love a piece of paper.

"Here's the practice exam from the other day!"

"Hahaha....." With those words, Love stops laughing.

"With these grades, you won't be able to get into the school you want unless you work harder!"

"That's right!" Love playfully slaps her head and says, "Thank you very much! Please excuse me!" and cheerfully leaves the classroom.

Manami can't help but smile as she watches her leave.

I think the student named Momozono Love is an interesting child. Being around her makes me feel happy.

However, Manami quickly changes her mind and thinks that was the way it was supposed to be. Because she...

Her smartphone vibrates, notifying her of an incoming call — from her fiancé. She can't help but smile and she presses the accept button.

"Hello?"

However, Manami's smile freezes when she hears her fiancé's first words on the call. "I'm sorry. We can't get married after all..." Manami isn't able to immediately understand the meaning of his words. She has been in the midst of happiness until now. But it didn't last long.

For a moment, she feels angry at Love, even though she knows that it's misguided. *Ms. Momozono, why did you go home?* A ridiculous

thought. Even though she knows that just because Love Momozono makes her happy when she's with her doesn't mean she will be deprived of happiness when she's gone... *But we just talked about how happy I am.* The timing is too perfect. No, is it too horrible? Either way is the same for Manami.

The voice on the phone from that point on doesn't reach Manami's ears. Her fiancé's excuses bounce off her. But she knows one thing. She realizes that happiness and unhappiness are two sides of the same coin. And they can be reversed without notice...

Chinen Daisuke is attending the baseball team's practice on the field. Daisuke and the other third year students finished their club activities this summer. So there's no need for him to show up like this anymore. In fact, just a while ago, the catcher Sawa Yuki, who was working with Daisuke, asked him to go to an arcade. Mikoshiba Kento also went with them. Daisuke, Yuki, and Kento are good friends, and a year ago they formed a dance unit called "Tri-color Dango" and even participated in a competition. Despite being invited by these two people, Daisuke said "Sorry, I feel like showing up to club activities a bit today. I'm graduating soon..." He said a sentimental line that's completely out of character, making Yuki and Kento burst into laughter.

And now, he is alone watching his juniors' club activities. Sometimes he gives various advice to his juniors. However, that's not the real purpose of attending club activities, so the advice given is a bit sloppy.

"Daisuke, is this what it looks like?"

"Ah? Ah...it looks good." While coaching his junior pitcher on his pitching form, Daisuke is constantly glancing over to the entrance.

Just when Daisuke's juniors are starting to feel like he is being a nuisance, Daisuke's "purpose" reveals itself. Love is leaving school after receiving career guidance.

"Yo!"

Love suddenly hears a voice and turns around. "Ah, Daisuke! You haven't gone home yet?"

"Ah...I showed up at the club activities. What about you? Have you finished your career guidance?"

"Yeah. Wait, how did you know I was at career guidance today?"

"Well...I saw you with Ms. Manami after class."

"I see" It's true. Daisuke wants to know which school Love wants to go to, so he waited for Love to finish her career guidance while waiting up at the baseball club. The reason for this isn't very hard to guess.

Love and Daisuke walk home together on the embankment of the school road.

"I see, you want to apply to Yotsuba High School after all..." Daisuke says. Yotsuba High School is a local public high school. The majority of students in Yotsuba go on to study there.

"What about you?"

"Me? I'm honestly not sure..."

"Ehhh!" Love can't help but look at Daisuke.

Daisuke doesn't notice and continues talking while looking straight ahead. "Yuki's family runs a sushi restaurant, right? That's why he trained as a chef instead of going to high school. Also, Kento is the heir of the Mikoshiba Zaibatsu! He decided to study abroad in America!" Daisuke

smiles self-deprecatingly, "Everyone has goals for the future, and I'm the only one who's stuck in limbo..."

"I understand! I understand, Daisuke!"

"Ehhh?" Love suddenly grabs Daisuke's hand with both of her hands and violently shakes them.

"I'm exactly the same! Both Miki and Buki have decided on their dreams for the future, and I'm the only one who doesn't quite understand them yet!"

"I see! We really are the same!"

"Right!"

Seeing Love nodding with an innocent smile, Daisuke gets a little nervous and looks away from her. The crosswalk light is red, and the two of them stop. Daisuke begins speaking without looking at Love. "I thought about trying to attend a private high school in the neighboring town that has a strong baseball team, but if you're going to go to Yotsuba High School, then I guess..." Daisuke says that with all his courage, his face turning red, and then glances over at Love. The light has already turned green and Love is on the other side of the crosswalk.

"See you—! Daisuke—! Let's do our best together—!"

"Wait, you weren't listening to me!"

The light turns red again, and Daisuke stands there alone.

That night, Love returns home, finishes her meal, takes a bath, and then immediately sits down at her study desk and opens a reference book for a subject she's weak at.

"Alright! Let's do it!"

"Shhh! You'll wake up Chiffon!" Tarte scolds Love, who is putting Chiffon to bed in the corner of the room.

"Oh, sorry....." Love instinctively apologizes. "Wait, why do I have to apologize? This is my room!" Love protests in a low voice so as not to wake Chiffon.

"Goodnight, Chiffon." Tarte quietly leaves Chiffon, who is sleeping, so as not to wake her up, and looks at Love who is studying.

"You're so excited, Peach! Are you motivated enough?"

"I'm really trying to study, but..." Love's excitement suddenly drops. Love desperately tries to remember what Inori taught her, but all the knowledge seems to slip out of her mind.

Inori told her, "If there's anything you don't understand, please ask me anything," but Love doesn't even know what she doesn't understand.

Tarte starts talking while reading a manga magazine. "Well, but I think you're you, right, right? Berry is Berry! Pine is Pine! And Peach is Peach! If you compare yourself to others too much, you'll risk your future. The dream is..."

"Oh, you're so loud! Who told me to be quiet because Chiffon was going to wake up!" Love complains under her breath again. "Besides, I want to concentrate on my studies too! So please be quiet!"

Tarte says, "That's too bad," makes a pose of worship with both hands, puts his index finger to his mouth, and silently starts reading his magazine.

"....."

"....."

Silence.

"... zzzzzz, zzzzzz"

“Did you fall asleep?” Before Tarte knows it, Love has fallen asleep, face down on the study table. “Seriously? Unbelievable...” Tarte gently hangs a cardigan on her back.

The next day

When Love arrives at school, her homeroom teacher, Manami, is absent. “Maybe she caught a cold?” Love wonders.

But after that day, Ms. Manami stops showing up to school. The school explains to the students in her class that her absence is due to her poor health, but no one really believes that. That’s because rumors begin to spread among the students that things are not going well with her fiancé.

Love can’t believe everything happened so suddenly. The last time she saw Ms. Manami was on career guidance day. Love still remembers the happy smile on her teacher’s face at the time. That was only a few days ago. Love thinks that people are probably making baseless assumptions. Of course, she doesn’t know that right after Love got home that day, Ms. Manami got a phone call from her fiancé to break up with her.

A few days later

When Daisuke stops by the bookstore on his way home from school, he skips past the usual magazine section and manga shelves and heads straight for the shelves lined with exam reference books. In truth, he has never really put much effort into studying for the entrance exam, but after talking with Love, he finally decides to start thinking about studying seriously for it. But he only has a short time left this year...just as he starts to wonder if he really has enough time to make it, he suddenly hears a voice from behind.

"Dai-su-ke!"

"Let's play!"

Daisuke turns around in surprise and sees Sawa Yuki and Mikoshiba Kento standing there grinning. Yuki approaches Daisuke with a grin on his face, puts his arm around Daisuke's shoulders, and whispers in his ear. "I heard from a first year on the baseball team that you refused our invitation the other day and ambushed Love for her return home?"

"Whoa, an ambush... it's not like that! It's just that we had a little talk..."

"It's okay, you don't have to be so embarrassed." As Daisuke hurriedly denies it, Kento approaches him and whispers in his ear. "We're cheering for you, Daisuke."

"Cheering?"

"Yeah!" Yuki says loudly, "Think about it. Miki and I aren't going on to high school, but we split up into completely different careers, working as a sushi chef and becoming a hairdresser... As for Kento and Yamabuki, they're going to be living in America and Japan, right?"

"Daisuke and Love are the only ones who have a chance of being in the same class even if they go to high school! So please do your best for us!"

"What is that...?"

"Well, it's okay, let's go to the arcade for now!"

"Ah! Wait a minute! I'm studying for the entrance exam..."

"If you want to study, I'll teach you at the arcade." Daisuke is taken out of the bookstore by force, with Yuki and Kento holding his arms on both sides. Daisuke knows that the reason he hasn't put much effort into studying for entrance exams is because he's hanging out with these two, who aren't taking entrance exams themselves.

The arcade has two floors. The first floor is lined with the latest games, and the second floor is the space for old games, and you can play anything there for half price.

Daisuke, Yuki, and Kento skip the first floor, which is always crowded with gamers, and go to the second floor. Daisuke plays half-price games because he wants to play a lot for less money, but that's not the only reason. In fact, the latest game console is at Kento's house. There, they can play for hours for free without lining up.

"Man! You win again!" Daisuke gets hit by Kento's instant kill move in the fighting game they're playing for the third time. Kento is such a big gamer that he even has the latest game console at his home. There's no way a casual gamer like Daisuke can compete with him.

"Okay! I'm next!" Yuki replaces Daisuke and begins to battle with Kento.

Daisuke leaves his seat and goes to the vending machine to buy some juice. He suddenly looks out the window absentmindedly. "Huh?" Daisuke can't help but look at the coffee shop directly across the street and stares at it. Because he sees someone he knows at the table by the window. *That's...*

"Huh? Ms. Manami?"

It's break time — Daisuke and Love are standing and talking in the corner of the hallway. Daisuke brings his face a little closer and speaks in a low voice, saying that yesterday he saw Ms. Manami arguing with a man at a coffee shop in front of the arcade. "I was looking out a window on the second floor! I could see it clearly from the arcade across the street!"

"Daisuke, did you go to the arcade after school?"

"Yuki and Kento made me...anyways, I'm sure it was her fiancé!"

"Did you see his face?"

"No, I couldn't see it very well."

"What did his voice sound like?"

"There's no way I could hear it, I was watching from the arcade across the street!"

"Then we don't know if he's her fiancé or not!"

"But I'm sure he was getting into an argument with Ms. Manami."

Daisuke lowers his voice and brings his face closer to Love's. "It's strange, you miss school all the time and you're meeting up with a guy at a coffee shop!"

"Your face is too close!"

The chime to start class rang, and that's the end of the conversation.

A few days later, after school, Love goes to Inori's house instead of her home. She is going to be taught her studies at Inori's house today.

Along the way, Love remembers the words her mother Ayumi had said.

Buki is a student taking an entrance exam just like me. And she's supposed to be studying hard to become a veterinarian. Is it really okay for Buki to be teaching me like this, as if she's my private tutor, Love wonders. Love is really grateful to Buki.

Love passes by the park. At the usual place, Kaoru is opening his donut cafe. *That's right! Let's go get some donuts!* Love thinks. *It wouldn't be good to not get Buki any gifts!* However, in reality, Love actually wants to eat Kaoru's donuts herself.

Love rushes over to the donut truck. As she approaches, the terrace seats gradually come into view from behind the truck. A woman is sitting on the terrace. Love stops in her tracks.

"Ah, Miyuki..." The woman is Miyuki, leader of the popular dance unit Trinity. A year ago, Love, Miki, Inori, and Setsuna formed a dance unit called "Clover" and won a competition. Miyuki was their dance coach at the time. She is also the older sister of their classmate Daisuke. However, after winning the competition, they gradually stopped dancing due to their entrance exams. That's why Love rarely sees Miyuki face to face.

Truthfully, it is a little hard for Love to talk to Miyuki right now. It's not that she doesn't like dancing anymore, but... Still, deciding that there's no point in turning back at this point, Love decides to call out to her.

"Miyuki..." However, Miyuki doesn't notice Love and walks away quickly with a serious look on her face. *Miyuki...?* When Love stops, Kaoru notices and sticks his head out of the truck and calls out to Love.

"Yo, girl!"

"Yo! Kaoru!"

"Today is another nice day for donuts? Ahah!"

"Hey, do you know what's wrong with Miyuki?"

"What do you mean?"

"Well, she looked upset just now..."

"Really? I didn't notice? Do you want to buy donuts?"

"Yeah!"

"Well, there's lots of things in life. There's a lot of donuts, too! So! Which ones are you going to have today?" Love looks at the various types of donuts neatly arranged. The smell of freshly made donuts tickles her nose.

"Uhhh, that one, that one, and that one. Two of each!"

"You're eating that much? You're growing so fast!"

"No! I'm taking it home!"

Inori's house is an animal hospital located on Clover Town Street. When Love passes by Inori's father, Tadashi Yamabuki, a veterinarian, he notices her and slightly waves his hand. Love smiles and waves back, and she passes through the hospital entrance, goes to the front door of the Yamabuki family, and presses the intercom.

Inori's voice immediately comes from the speaker.

"Yes?"

"It's Love!"

"Hold on, I'll open it now!" Soon Love hears the door being unlocked, and the front door opens.

"Welcome!"

"Ehh.....?"

The person who appears is not Inori, but Aono Miki. "Why are you here, Miki?"

"I came to return the book I borrowed from Buki. I heard that you were coming by then, so I thought I'd give you a little scare." Miki smiles mischievously.

Inori also comes over there, "Come on, Love, get up here!"

"Thanks for having me!"

"Well, I'll go home now."

"Huh? Why, Miki?"

"Because I don't want to disturb Love's studies."

"It's okay, Miki, let's study together!"

"But, I'm not taking the exam!"

"I see... that's a shame, I went to the trouble of buying Kaoru's donuts."

"Ehh....." Miki's hand stops as she's putting on her shoes.

"Then we can eat them together, Love!"

"Hey, wait a minute, Buki!" Miki puts her shoes back down, "You should have said that earlier!"

Love laughs out loud and says, "Ahahaha! See, I scared you back!"

"What's that supposed to mean?"

"Hehe...Okay, both of you get up. I'll make some tea now."

"Thanks for having me!" Love and Miki say this in unison and go to Inori's room.

Night of that day

Miyuki is lying on her bed in her room, thinking about the events that happened today.

I wonder why I said that...

"Then just do whatever you want!"

The previous morning, Reika, Nana, and Miyuki's dance unit "Trinity" was having their usual dance lessons at their usual spot. But during their break, they weren't doing their usual things. Suddenly, Reika announced that she wanted to quit Trinity.

"What.....what are you talking about?"

"What do you mean? Tell us what you mean!"

For Miyuki and Nana, it was a bolt out of the blue. They immediately stopped the lesson and tried to persuade her to stay.

The reason, to put it simply, was family circumstances. Suddenly, Reika had to return to her hometown. The circumstances are quite understandable. Reika was crying. The person who was having the hardest time dealing with it is probably Reika herself. Miyuki knows that too. But she just wasn't able to accept it.

Trinity, where the three of them have been working hard towards their dreams, is coming to an end... Miyuki blurts out the words that she's been ruminating on all day.

"I'm sorry for being selfish..." Those were Reika's last words.

Why couldn't she have said "Thank you for everything" as she chased after her, Miyuki wonders. She doesn't want Trinity, which the three of them have been working on for so long, to end like this! But Miyuki's the one who did it. "I'm the worst..." Miyuki hugs her pillow and cries.

Then, suddenly feeling someone's presence, she quietly looks up and turns around. A man wearing a black hooded cloak stood in the corner of the room. Normally, Miyuki would have screamed that a suspicious person had broken into the room. Her younger brother Daisuke is in the next room. But strangely, she isn't afraid. On the contrary, she feels an irresistible force that draws her towards the man. It's like she's being hypnotized.

"My name is Demon Fist..." The man in a black cloak introduces himself. You can't see his face clearly behind the hood that covers his eyes, but inside, his eyes are emitting a strange light.

"Demon Fist..." Miyuki feels the irresistible power that is radiating from those eyes. As the man stares at her with fiery, mysterious eyes, she is unable to move or look away, like a frog being glared at by a snake.

"Are you sad?"

"Yes....."

"Does it hurt?"

"Yes....."

"The pain of mourning the happiness that will never return...I know a way to escape from that predicament and become at ease..."

"What's the method? Please tell me!" Miyuki begs as if she is completely captivated by Demon Fist.

"It's some magic words."

"Magic... words."

"Just say the words. That's all."

"Tell me! Those magic words!"

Seeing Miyuki pleading as if she was about to grab hold of him, Demon Fist grins from behind the hood that covers his eyes. "You already know them..."

"!"

At that moment, "certain words" appear in Miyuki's mind. As if to push Miyuki back, Demon Fist begins to drag Miyuki into the world of darkness with the whispers of the devil.

"Now say the magic words that will free you from the pain in your heart!" The last stronghold within Miyuki was crumbling.

And then Miyuki utters the forbidden words.

"I don't need happiness"

The next moment, inky black darkness bursts out from the open mouth of Demon Fist and erodes Miyuki's body!

Daisuke is listening to music on headphones in the next room. He is a little hungry, so he takes off his headphones and thinks about going to the convenience store to buy something—.

“Kyaaaaaaaaaaaaa!”

Surprised by his sister's sudden scream, Daisuke runs out of the room and opens the door to his sister's room without even knocking!

“What’s wrong, Miyuki!” What Daisuke sees is his sister, who is currently being transformed into a sinister monster.

"Daisuke..." In the next moment, Miyuki is completely reborn and transforms into the ‘Miyuki that used to be’. “Ahhhhh!”

In front of Daisuke, who is stunned, the ‘Miyuki that used to be’ breaks the window and jumps outside!

"Fushiawase! Da-da-dancing!"

"...Fushiawase...?" Demon Fist disappears before Daisuke sees him.

Around that time, Love finishes studying for her entrance exam, and she is leaving Inori's house with Miki. “Thanks for having me over!”

“I’ll see you off!” Inori also leaves the house to drop them off.

On the way home, Love tells Miki and Inori about Miyuki that she saw at the park during the day. Inori, who listened to her story, mutters in concern.

"Yes...Miyuki..."

“Yeah, she looked deep in thought.

"Come to think of it, I haven't seen her lately either."

"Miyuki, I hope you’re alright..."

Miki can't help but smile when she sees Love muttering worriedly. "Hehe, Love is still more concerned about other people's business than her own."

"My own business?"

"That's right! I was helping you with your studies a little while ago, but that's really a case of worrying about other people..."

"Ehh! Don't say anything beyond that!" Love hurriedly interrupts Miki, not wanting to hear it.

But then...

"Eaaaahhhhhhhhh!" Suddenly, a man's scream cuts through that air.

"What was that?" The three girls are surprised, and stop and look at each other. They then hear the screams of many people, including a woman's scream and a man's yell.

What's going on?

Love is so worried that she can no longer stay still. It's the same for the other two,

"Let's go! Miki, Buki!"

"Yeah!"

"Got it!"

As soon as they respond, the three of them start running.

Love and her friends rush to the scene of the commotion and are momentarily speechless when they see the scene in front of them.

The townspeople are panicking and running away. Behind them, a monster about three meters tall is rampaging, moving its limbs as if dancing!

"Fushiawase! Da-da-da daancing!" The monster shouts this out loud, and stretches out its long, thin arms to randomly grab the people who are unable to escape. Then, the people who are grabbed start dancing against their will.

"Huh? What? My body is acting on its own!"

"No, someone please stop me!" It makes people fear that they would dance until they die, just like in the fairy tale "The Red Shoes".

Love was the first to speak. "What... what are they doing...?"

"Could it be... Labyrinth?" Miki says with a trembling voice.

"That can't be true!" Love immediately denies it. "Because Labyrinth is supposed to be a peaceful country!"

"So what exactly is that, then?"

It does remind them of what happened a year ago. The dictatorship Labyrinth — its leader Mobius — plotted to conquer all parallel worlds, and in order to do that he schemed to obtain the infinite memory "Infinity". He appeared in this world where Love and the others live and commits utter atrocities.

The four female Pretty Cures, Cure Peach, aka Momozono Love; Cure Berry, aka Aono Miki; and Cure Pine, aka Yamabuki Inori. There's also Cure Passion, Higashi Setsuna, originally Eas of Labyrinth, but who learned of "happiness", had a change of heart, and joined Love and the others. Thanks to the efforts of the Fresh Pretty Cures, the ambitions of Lord Mobius were crushed and peace was restored to the town.

"Anyway, we have to help everyone!"

"Uh, yeah! That's right, Buki!" Inori's words bring them back to their senses, and Love and the others decide to lend a hand to those who were unable to escape.

"Ma'am, are you okay? Come on, run away!"

At that time, Tarte climbs onto a streetlight with Chiffon on his back and looks at the town.

"Fushiawase! Dada da daan dancing!" The monster is attacking people who haven't been able to escape at random.

"This is terrible...!" Chiffon is sleeping peacefully on Tarte's back.

Love, who is guiding the evacuation of those who are unable to escape, suddenly spots a man who was not running away and is still staring up at the monster with a somber expression on his face. He is probably in his late twenties. He is a well-dressed, serious-looking man. "It's dangerous out there! Please run away quickly!"

"Ah...ah, yes." Encouraged by Love, he flees from the scene. At that moment, a dolphin key chain attached to the man's shoulder bag came into Love's field of vision.

I feel like I've seen that keychain somewhere before... Love tries to remember where, but...

"Love!" Someone suddenly calls out to her, and suddenly she is taken back to the present. It is Daisuke who rushes in, calling out Love's name.

"Love! Love!"

"What's wrong, Daisuke?"

"It's so horrible! Please do something!"

"Calm down!" Miki tells him sharply.

"What's going on?"

"Ah, that monster... it's my sister!"

"Ehhhhhh!"

This time, Love and the others lose their composure.

"Miyuki...? How!"

"How...I don't even know! I just suddenly heard a scream coming from my sister's room...and when I ran to see what's wrong, she had turned into a monster!"

"No way..." Inori instinctively covers her mouth with her hand.

"And then she became a monster that dances like that...!"

"Fushiawase! Da-da-da, daanceeing!" After shouting loudly, the monster climbs onto a building, wriggling its body, and looks with amusement at the dancing people that are now filling the town. When Daisuke sees his sister turned into such a monster, he begs Love with an expression that looks like he's about to burst into tears.

"Please, Love! Please help my sister!"

"Uhhh....."

"Quickly transform into Cure Peach and restore my sister to normal!"

"I-I hear you say that, but..."

"Miki and Inori, please! Please transform!"

Love, Miki, and Inori look at each other as Daisuke pleads with them. In the past year since peace returned to the town, Love and the others have not transformed into Pretty Cures even once. First of all, the transformation items, Linkrun and Pickrun, were returned to the Sweets Kingdom. Still, they feel they have to do something about Miyuki!

"Miyuki!" Love, Miki, and Inori start running towards the monster.

"It's me, Love! Remember me?"

"Miyuki! Stop doing this!"

"Please! Come back to your senses!"

The three of them appeal to the monster with their words. However, their voices do not reach Miyuki, who has already lost herself.

"Fushiawase! Dada da daan dancing!" A long slender arm stretches out and attacks Love and the others!

"Kyaa!" Love barely manages to dodge it, "Miyuki!" and doesn't give up, still shouting out the monster's former name!

"Fushiawase! Dada da daan dancing!" The monster keeps rampaging! Love can't help but mutter, "I want to help Miyuki!"

At the same time — on top of a streetlight

Chiffon, who is being carried by Tarte, suddenly starts crying, as if in response to Love's words.

"Huh! What's wrong, Chiffon!"

The mark on Chiffon's forehead shines brightly in front of Tarte, who is in a panic! "Curea-curea ahh!"

"Waa! W-what?!"

And then—!

Before they know it, Love, Miki, and Inori are clutching their Linkruns!

"Eh?"

"Is this..."

"Linkrun!"

Furthermore, from beyond the night sky, "Keeeeeey!" The three Pickruns — Pirun, Burun, and Kirun fly towards the three! "Key!"

"Pirun!"

"Birun!"

"Kirun!" Love, Miki, and Inori are reunited with their Pickruns.

"Why....."

Pirun answers to Love's surprise, "Love called me-key!"

"Me?"

"You're going to help Miyuki, right? Then you need our help-key!"

"Does that mean...I can become a Pretty Cure again?"

"There's no time to delay!"

Love looks back at Miki and Inori. There is determination in the eyes of both of them. Without even exchanging words, the three of them opened Linkrun and shouted at the same time!

"Change! Pretty Cure, Beat Up!" The next moment, the three figures are enveloped in pink, blue, and yellow lights!

"The pink heart is the symbol of love! Freshly picked! Cure Peach!"

"The blue heart is the symbol of hope! Freshly gathered, Cure Berry!"

"The yellow heart is the symbol of prayers! Freshly harvested, Cure Pine!"

"Let's—!"

"Pretty Cure!" The three transform into the Fresh Pretty Cure!

Tarte, carrying Chiffon on his back, comes running, out of breath.

"Cure Berry! Cure Pine! Oh, I wondered if I would make it here in time, and everyone's turned into Pretty Cure!"

Cure Peach, Cure Berry, and Cure Pine, who have transformed for the first time in a year, stretch lightly to get used to their bodies.

"Let's go!"

"Okay!"

"Yes!"

They charge at the monster!

The onlookers yell in unison. "Eh, Pretty Cures!"

"The Fresh Pretty Cure!"

Daisuke is among the onlookers. "Love...thank you!" He thanks Love for transforming and starts to cheer loudly. "Good luck, Pretty Cures!"

"Fushiawase! Da da da daancing!" The monster targets the three Pretty Cures and attacks with its many arms!

"Ahh!" Peach and the others quickly dodge it. However, the monster moves quickly and unleashes merciless attacks.

"Ah!" The whip-like arm violently slaps Cure Berry!

"Miki!"

"Are you okay? Miki!"

"Of course! It's been a while and I'm just a little rusty!" Cure Berry stands up, "And right now it's not Miki, it's Berry! Peach and Pine!"

"Oh, that's right!"

"Sorry, Berry!"

At that time, the monster launches merciless attacks one after another! The Pretty Cures dodge left and right, closing the gap.

"We have to get serious, Miyuki, otherwise we won't be able to help!"

"Yeah! We can't hold back just because it's Miyuki!"

"I believe that Miyuki will definitely return to her former self!" The Pretty Cures fight back!

"Haa!"

"Yaah!"

"Taah!"

They throw punches and kicks at the monster one after another, then distance themselves from it. The speed of the three of them gradually increases, and the time of a year is quickly erased in the battle.

"Double Pretty Cure Punch!"

"Gaaaa!"

Berry and Pine punch!

"Triple Pretty Cure Kick!"

"Gyaaaaaaaaaaaaa!"

Peach, Berry, and Pine's jump kick causes damage!

"Now!" With Cure Peach's shout, the three of them insert their Pickrun into their Linkrun all at once. Each Cure Stick appears!

"Reach! Melody of Love! Cure Stick, Peach Rod!!"

"Heal! Harmony of Prayers! Cure Stick, Pine Flute!!"

"Nasty thing, nasty thing, fly away!"

Cure Peach brilliantly manipulates the Peach Rod! "Pretty Cure, Love Sunshine, Fresh!" The pink heart that got released hits the monster and wraps around its body.

Next up is Cure Berry! "Nasty thing, nasty thing, fly away! Pretty Cure, Espoir Shower, Fresh!" The blue spade fired from the Berry Sword also hits the monster!

"Gaaaah!" The monster writhes in agony as it is repeatedly hit by purification techniques.

"It's working! Just a little more!"

"Please, Pine!"

"Nasty thing, nasty thing, fly away! Pretty Cure, Healing Pray..." At that moment, a puppy that has become separated from its owner jumps out

in front of the monster! "No! Don't come!" Pine immediately jumps out and hugs the puppy!

"Look out, Pine!" The next moment — Boom! The monster's arm swings around and blows Cure Pine away!

"Ahhhhh!" Cure Pine is slammed against a block wall. She is still holding the puppy tightly. "Are you okay? Were you hurt?"

The puppy woofs cheerfully! They then hear the dog's owner calling in the distance. Barking, it slips through Cure Pine's arm and runs to its owner, wagging its tail.

"Hehe... thank goodness..." Upon seeing that, Cure Pine smiles weakly, and then she loses consciousness.

"Pine!" Peach and Berry try to rush over! However, the monster stands in front of her!

"Fushiawase! da da da daancing!"

Berry and Peach are blown away in quick succession by multiple arms flailing around!

"Kyaaaah!"

"Berry! Huh!"

One more... one more blow and we would have purified the monster...! Cure Peach is blown away while feeling regretful. But for a moment, she catches sight of a lone figure standing dashingly on the roof of an apartment building in the moonlight.

Wait, that's! She only saw it for a moment, but there's no mistaking it. "Cure Passion!" The person standing on the roof of the apartment building is unmistakably the fourth Pretty Cure, Cure Passion!

"Sing! Rhapsody of Happiness! Passion Harp!" Strumming the passion harp in her hand, "Roar! Storm of happiness! Pretty Cure,

Happiness Hurricane!" The red heart shot out from the Passion Harp wraps around the body of the monster! It's working! With the next blow, the monster is purified with a "swish"! At the same time, the people in the town, who have been dancing after being attacked, stop moving.

"Buki!" Love, Miki, and Setsuna, who have released their transformation, rush over to Inori, who is still lying on the ground.

"Yeah, I'm okay..." With Love's help, Inori slowly gets up. "What about Miyuki?" When Inori asks, Love and the others all turn around and see Miyuki, who has returned to normal, being cared for by her younger brother, Daisuke.

"Are you okay, sis!"

"I...why am I here...?"

"Miyuki!"

Love, Miki, Inori, and Setsuna also rush in, but Miyuki is so desperately trying to remember her memories that they don't even notice. "I...I think I was in my room..."

"That's right! Then I heard a scream coming from your room..."

"Demon Fist!"

"Ehh?"

Daisuke, Love, and the others are confused by the sudden meaningless words, but Miyuki, who has regained her memory, begins to speak as if she has calmed down.

When Daisuke realizes that there was a suspicious man in his sister's room, he can't help but raise his voice. "Eh? Who is that!"

"Who is it...I don't know who it is..."

After that, her memories are completely erased. Deciding that there's nothing more she can ask from Miyuki, Miki asks Daisuke, out of concern

for Miyuki's health. "Daisuke, you should take Miyuki home quickly and let her rest."

"Ah, ah...right."

"Can you stand up? Miyuki?" Love and Daisuke help Miyuki stand up.

"Ah... Love, it's been a while." Miyuki smiles, as if she just realized that Love and the others are there.

"Yeah, sorry Miyuki, I haven't been able to visit you at all lately."

"Hehehe....."

"Huh? Is something wrong?"

"Well, when I saw Love's face for the first time in a while, I felt better. Hey, say the thing!"

"Huh? Oh...yeah!" Love understands immediately and says with a smile and a thumbs up. "Happiness get!"

"Thanks! I feel like I'm getting more energetic!"

"Really? Great!"

"Hey, Miyuki, let's go home!" Love and the others see Miyuki off as Daisuke escorts her home.

There is someone watching Love and the others from the shadows — Demon Fist. From behind the hood that covers his eyes, he stares at Love and the others with fiery red eyes.

He mutters with disgust "Happiness get...? Hmph!"

"Huh?" Setsuna senses a presence and turns around. However, Demon Fist is no longer there.

"Setsu!"

"Welcome back!"

"I missed you, Setsuna!"

Setsuna is surrounded by the three girls immediately and forgets about the presence, and she responds to their warm welcome with a smile.

"I'm back! Love, Miki, Buki!"

Tarte and Chiffon also arrive.

"Westar is here too!"

"Puripuri~!"

"Tarte! Chiffon!"

"Passion!" Tarte tries to jump hug Setsuna's with his arms outstretched, but it's Chiffon who hugs Setsuna.

"Setsuna~!"

"Chiffon! It's been a while!"

"Passion, it's so sad..." Tarte suddenly says a pun, but no one is listening. Just then, Setsuna looks back at Tarte while still holding Chiffon.

"Tarte too! How have you been?"

"Well, it's been a blur!" Tarte smiles, relieved that she wasn't ignoring him. The pun was ignored, but that's arguably a good thing at this point.

"But why are you here?" When Tarte asks why she appeared just at the right time when they were in a pinch, Setsuna begins talking.

"Well..."

When Chiffon's forehead shined — in the other dimension world of Labyrinth, Westar and Soular were eating Setsuna's handmade donuts.

"What do you think?"

"Uh, yeah...they're good!"

"Ah...it's pretty good."

"Do you really want to say something else instead?"

"Uhh....."

"Well....." Westar and Soular were at a loss for words due to Setsuna's sharp tongue, but "Uhh...I really do like it though."

"I guess it's not as tasty as Kaoru's donuts..." Setsuna also takes a bite. "I'll do my best though. Hehehe!" Setsuna laughed, and both Westar and Soular started laughing. Smiles and smiles — these are now common sights seen everywhere in the Labyrinth.

Just then, Linkrun suddenly appeared in Setsuna's hands. "Eh! This is...Linkrun!" Furthermore, Akarun flew in from somewhere.

"Key!"

"Akarun too!"

Led by the glow of Chiffon's forehead, the transformation item Linkrun and the fourth Pickrun flew from the Sweets Kingdom across the dimensions to Labyrinth.

Setsuna was confused for a moment when she received her transformation item for the first time in a year. An instant later, she understood the meaning of this reappearance.

Love and the others are fighting...

The two people beside her realized this too. "No time to lose. We better leave soon."

"Soular..."

"My Kaoru's donuts are my favorite souvenirs! I'd never abandon them!"

"Westar!" Of course, Setsuna's mind was made up too. Setsuna holds Linkrun in her hand and screams out the transformation words for the first time in a year!

"Change! Pretty Cure, Beat Up!" Setsuna was enveloped in light and transformed into Cure Passion! "The red heart is the proof of happiness! Freshly ripened! Cure Passion!"

"Well done!" Wester and Sauler couldn't help but applaud.

"Stop." Then, with Akarun's teleportation ability, Passion appeared in Peach's situation.

Setsuna has "returned" to the Momozono family for the first time in a year. Not being told of anything, Love's mother, Ayumi, greets them at the entrance when they return home, and is surprised to see Setsuna appear from behind Love with a mischievous smile on her face, looking a little embarrassed, but also very happy.

"Setsu..." But the surprise only lasts for a moment, and tears of joy start to overflow. "Welcome back"

"I'm home...Mom." Ayumi hugs Setsuna with all her might as she says that, looking a little embarrassed. The same thing happens a little later when Love's father, Keitaro, comes home. As expected, he can't hug Setsuna, so he instead hugs Tarte as hard as he can.

They have dinner as a family of four for the first time in a year. "Come on, Love! If Setsu is coming, you have to tell me! I haven't prepared anything!" While Ayumi complains, she happily cooks the food with whatever she has.

"Delicious....." Setsuna couldn't help but relax when she saw Ayumi's cooking for the first time in a while.

"Oh, mom!" Love notices stuffed peppers in her dish and criticizes Ayumi. "No, you can't cook green peppers! Setsuna doesn't like them!"

"Oh, that's right! I'm sorry."

However, Setsuna smiles and starts eating the stuffed peppers with joy.

"Ah, it's okay, Setsu! You don't have to push yourself!"

But Setsuna shakes her head, "I can eat green peppers now!"

"Oh, really?" Love is surprised — and has a slightly uneasy feeling.

"Wow, that's great! Unlike Love, who still hates carrots."

Love's hunch comes true. "Well you hate spinach, mom!"

"Oh, you can eat mine if you want to!"

"I'm going to wash it down with tea!"

"Hehehe.....Ahaha!" Setsuna bursts out laughing when she hears Love and Ayumi's manzai-like exchange for the first time in a while. Her heart is happy to see this cheerful family as always. Although it was only for a short time, the love she gained from living with them was immeasurable. Setsuna realizes once again that she loves this family.

After a pleasant dinner, Love and Setsuna go upstairs. "See! Your room is still the same!"

"My room..." Even though it was only a year ago, it seems like forever ago. *Now that I think about it, I was almost attacked by the fake mother in this room...* Setsuna thinks back to those days.

In order to steal Infinity, Chiffon, Labyrinth's new executive, Northa, sent a fake Ayumi. Setsuna is the first to realize this and complains to Love, "She's not my mother!" but Love doesn't understand or believe her right away.

"How dare you say that! Don't you know how much your mother feels about you, Setsuna!"

However, in the end, Love realized that she was a fake, and the decisive factor in successfully rescuing the real Ayumi was Ayumi's love for her. It was also at that time that Setsuna called Ayumi "mom" for the first time.

The red heart bracelet from that time is still stored in Setsuna's desk drawer in Labyrinth.

While Setsuna is reminiscing about her memories, Love wraps her arms around her. "See, you're nostalgic, aren't you? So, don't tell me you're going home tomorrow, and stay with us for a while! I'm sure Miki and Buki would like to talk more! Right!"

"Yes, I'm sure they would..." Setsuna is worried about Labyrinth, and she said she would be back tomorrow at noon. But truthfully, she's been gone for a while, and she's starting to think she wants to stay with Love and the others. *I'm sure Westar and Soular will forgive me if it's only for a few days. As long as I buy Kaoru's donuts before I go home, I might be able to stay for a week or so.* "Maybe I will..."

"Really! Yay!"

Setsuna sees Love's happy face and she smiles, thinking that she must be having fun.

But reality wasn't all that fun for her.

The next day, a new Sadness (that's what Love and the others decided to call the monsters) appears on Clover Town Street.

"Fushiawase! Sun, sun, flower!" The Sadness, which looks like a giant sunflower, fires sunflower seeds like a machine gun and destroys buildings!

"Change! Pretty Cure, Beat Up!" The four of them immediately transform into Pretty Cures, and with their brilliant cooperation, they guide the Sunflower Sadness to a place where there will be less damage. The first battle with Miyuki was after a year long hiatus and rust from the Pretty Cures, but now they have completely regained their instincts for battle.

"Now!" As soon as the Sunflower Sadness flinches, the four Pretty Cures perform a decisive move and purify it.

"Soo relaxing~" Her true identity is the flower shop woman.

After that, new Sadnesses appear almost every day. Love and others go quickly each time and purify them immediately. Whether it's during class, eating, or after taking a bath. Sadness appears at any time. It's cutting into their time to study for the entrance exam.

The testimonies of those who return are almost the same as Miyuki's. A man in a black hooded cloak who called himself Demon Fist appears and they say they don't remember much about what happened after that. But they do learn something new. All of the people who were attacked had some kind of trouble, big or small.

Testimonies from some people who still had some memories said that he told them if they said, "I don't need happiness", they would feel better. It seems that they were seduced by the words of Demon Fist. Perhaps that's the key to becoming a Sadness.

If that's the case, Love thinks, I can't forgive him. At the same time, she is surprised to find that there are so many people in this town who think they are unhappy. But Love quickly changes her mind. Everyone must have one or two small worries, and that cannot be called being unhappy.

Demon Fist slips into the small gaps in their heart created by such trivial worries, and as if pulling together a frayed thread, he will gradually widen the gap.

Now that I think about it, Miyuki looked sad too. Suddenly, Love remembers Miyuki's expression when she saw her at the donut cafe. *I wonder if she has some troubles too...*

"Is anything wrong, Miyuki?" When Love asks her, Miyuki tries to cover it up with a smile, but she quickly changes her mind and confesses everything to Love, Miki, Inori, and Setsuna.

"What...Trinity is disbanding.....!"

"I haven't released the information yet, so please keep it a secret." Love and the others are shocked by the unexpected story. And the reason for this was that Reika had to leave. Miyuki unintentionally showered Reika with heartless words, which caused her to fall into self-loathing, which is probably what caught the attention of Demon Fist.

"Oh I see....." Apparently, she met Reika in person, apologized, and reconciled. Love and the others are relieved to hear that. And once again, Love vows deeply in her heart. "I'll definitely catch Demon Fist!"

Whether he knows about Love's determination or not, Demon Fist continues to sneak into the cracks in the hearts of troubled people and transform them into Sadnesses. Each time, the Pretty Cures rush in to purify them and return them to their original forms, but it feels like the Sadnesses are gradually becoming more powerful. In the beginning, it was relatively easy to purify them with a Cure Stick, but recently, the Sadness has to be damaged and weakened before it can be purified in one go, even if you use a Cure Stick or the Passion Harp.

“Hey, for the Pretty Cures, we should get ‘that’!” Seeing the Pretty Cures working hard, Tarte wants to do something to help, so he and Chiffon return to the Sweets Kingdom.

Tarte is the 105th prince of the Sweets Kingdom. Usually, when he returns home, he goes straight to the castle and greets his parents, who are the king and the queen, but this time is different. He wants to bring "that" to the Pretty Cures as quickly as possible. Tarte immediately hurries to Mushy Bean Woods.

"That" is the legendary Clover Box. The Clover Box was returned to the shrine in the woods after having been taken during the deadly battle with Labyrinth. With the Clover Box, the Pretty Cures can use an even more powerful purification technique. That's why Tarte has come.

“Ahhh, I remember coming to this forest with Peach and the others...” Tarte reminisces. At that time, there was an evil power that sealed the Clover Box, and turned the woods into a dark place. In the end, it was his fiancée Azukina who broke the demon's seal.

"I wonder if Azukina would be angry with me because I didn't go see her first...?" Tarte walks up the long stone steps leading to the shrine, thinking of going to see Azukina after getting the Clover Box and before returning to Love's world.

Chiffon, who was flying a little ahead of Tarte, calls out to him.

"Curea! Tarto!"

"Tarto, really? Stop calling me that."

“It’s gone, it’s gone, Curea!”

"Huh? What did you mean? Look harder..." Tarte finishes climbing the stone steps and stands there dumbfounded by the scene in front of him. "No...! It really is gone!" Surprisingly, the shrine where the Clover Box was kept has disappeared. "Oh, that's what you mean...!"

Chapter 2 - Demon Fist!

The man at the soba restaurant is extremely nervous. Next to him is a woman who looks like a neat young lady. She's about two or three years younger than the man. The soba restaurant man finally took the plunge and invited a woman he had been interested in for some time to dinner.

Soon, it's time to go home. He is walking shoulder to shoulder on the deserted promenade.

"Oh, what a beautiful moon..."

"Ehh?" When the woman looks up, the moon disappears behind the clouds at the worst possible moment.

Even though he has a feeling of foreboding, the man does the action that he had simulated many times in his head. "Ah, um! If you don't mind, would you please come home with me?"

"I'm sorry, but..." This too was a steady response, as if she had simulated it in her head, too. "Well, I'm here...thank you for the meal today. Goodbye."

"Goodbye..." The man looks at her in a daze as she trots along the path to where she lives, and then plops down on a nearby bench. "It's over....." Sadness slowly rises from the bottom of his heart. At the same time, the tears overflowed and wet his cheeks.

"Uhh.....?" The soba restaurant man suddenly feels a presence and looks next to him, and before he knows it, a strange man is sitting next to him. The hood attached to his black cloak covers his eyes, so the soba restaurant man can't see his expression. "Uhh, who are you?"

"My name is Demon Fist..."

"Do you need something from me? If not, then please leave me..." The soba restaurant man was about to ask him to leave him alone, but then

freezes. Demon Fist's eyes emit a mysterious light from behind the hood. As soon as he sees them, he is unable to move or look away.

"Are you sad?"

"Yes....."

"Does it hurt?"

"Yes....."

"I know the magic words that will help you escape from that predicament and make you feel better..."

"Magic words..."

"You already know the words."

"!"

The next moment, the man from the soba restaurant reflexively speaks the words that have been placed in his head. "I don't need happiness"

Then, the darkness that burst out from Demon Fist's mouth suddenly enters into the soba restaurant man. It's eating away at the man's body!

"Uwaaaaaaaaaaaaa!"

And now, the four Pretty Cures are dealing with the new Sadness that appeared in a mountain forest area with few people - they're fighting against the Soba Sadness. "Fushiawase! Chrunchchrunchchrunch!"

This time, the Sadness stretched out countless soba-like tentacles, tying up people indiscriminately and absorbing their power. The victims, who were completely overwhelmed, collapse on the spot and fall unconscious, unable to stand up. So, in order to prevent further damage,

the Pretty Cures guided the Soba Sadness to this place where there are few people.

"Fushiawase! Churuchuru!" The Soba Sadness is merciless to the Pretty Cures, and stretches out countless soba-shaped tentacles!

"Be careful, Peach! This time will be quite tough!"

"Okay, Passion!"

"Perhaps the grief and sadness that you carry in your heart is so great!" Berry says, nodding at Pine,

"Then we have to heal you properly!"

Peach, Berry, and Pine all took out their respective Cure Sticks at the same time!

"Nasty thing, nasty thing, fly away!"

"Pretty Cure! Love Sunshine, Fresh!"

"Pretty Cure! Espoir Shower, Fresh!"

"Pretty Cure! Healing Prayer, Fresh!"

And Passion takes out the Passion Harp! "Roar! Oh Storm of happiness! Pretty Cure, Happiness Hurricane!"

A pink heart, a blue spade, a yellow diamond, and a raging red heart hit the Soba Sadness! Its body is wrapped in the light of happiness!

"Shaaa.... So relaxing!"

Dooooon!

But somehow, the Soba Sadness holds on at the last minute and blows away the light of happiness with the power of despair!

Cure Pine stands there stunned. "No! He's grieving too much, and we can't purify him!"

"How unhappy are you!" While Berry unexpectedly grumbles, the Sadness's counterattack begins!

"Fushiawase! Chrunchchrunch!" As if its power has further increased, the Soba Sadness goes on a rampage, swinging its countless buckwheat-shaped tentacles!

"Run! Peach! Berry! Pine!" Passion screams, and the Pretty Cure members scatter at the last minute to dodge the attack! However, their special attack was negated and they have no choice but to focus on defense.

"What should I do..." Peach involuntarily mutters...

"Peach!" Tarte, Chiffon, and Azukina come rushing in!

"Tarte!"

"And Azukina too!"

"Looks like we made it just in time!" Azukina is holding the Cloverbox on her chest!

Tarte was shocked to see that the shrine was missing in Mushy Bean Woods, but then Azukina appeared with the Clover Box. According to Azukina, the dilapidated shrine collapsed one stormy night, and they were about to rebuild it. During that time, the Azukina carefully maintained the Clover Box.

"Come on, Azukina! I rush over here, and the shrine's gone? I was worried that the Clover Box was just missing somewhere!"

Azukina looked at Tarte with slightly resentful eyes, "You didn't come to see me first when you came back."

"It's true. Please forgive me, Azukina!" When Tarte tries to take the Clover Box from Azukina, Azukina suddenly puts the Clover Box behind her back.

"What is this? This is no time to be joking around!"

"I'm not joking around!"

"Then, hurry up and let me have it! Otherwise, the Pretty Cures will be in trouble!"

"So I'll take this with me!"

"Ehh?"

"I won't leave your side anymore!"

"Azukina..." The two were having a good time, but Chiffon got in between them.

"Pretty Cures, in a pinch! Hurry!" The mark on Chiffon's forehead shined brightly!

"Cure Curea~!" Then, using her power, they were able to teleport and make it to the spot just in time.

"Hey! Peach, take this!" Azukina hands the Clover Box to Peach.

"Thank you! Azukina!" Just then, the Soba Sadness stretches out its tentacles and attacks!

"Fushiawase! Churuchuru!"

"Kyaa!"

"Watch out!" Azukina is almost caught by the tentacles, but Peach grabs Azukina just in the nick of time, and escapes.

"Tarte, stand back!" Peach says, then turns to Berry, Pine, and Passion. "Okay, everyone! We're doing this for the first time in a while!" The other three all nod in unison!

"Cloverbox! Lend us your power!" The lid of the Clover Box opens and the four hearts rotate to form a clover. At the same time, the Linkruns on the waists of the four Pretty Cures start to shine! "Pretty Cure Formation!" The four Pretty Cures lined up one after another in a horizontal line and crouched down to set positions!

“Ready, go!” With Peach's shout, they all dash towards the Sadness!

"Happiness leaf, set! Pine!" Passion throws the red heart in her hand to Pine!

Pine catches it while running, “Plus one! Prayer Leaf! Berry!”, and then throws it to Berry!

Berry catches it! "Plus One! Espoir Leaf!" She adds a blue heart and throws it to Peach. "Peach!"

Finally, Peach catches it and adds a pink heart! "Plus one! Lovely leaf!" The four hearts become clover-shaped and gigantic, and the four Pretty Cures stand in their own hearts, surrounding the Soba Sadness in the center!

"Lucky Clover! Grand Finale! Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!"

Before they know it, the Soba Sadness is wrapped in jewels and purified. “So relaxing~!” This time, he returns to being the man from the soba restaurant.

"Okay!" Love and her friends, who have released their transformation, rush in.

"Ah... Love....." The man at the soba restaurant gradually becomes conscious. "Oh, what? What on earth did I do?"

“Did you meet Demon Fist?” Miki's words bring back his memories all at once.

"That's right! Demon Fist! He said there are magic words that will make you forget about the bad things and feel better...bad things? My bad things...Aaah!" Memories come back one after another like an association game. Even the memories he wanted to forget this time. "That's right...I took the plunge and confessed my feelings...and then she flatly and clearly refused me! Uh, ugh!" When Love sees the man from the soba restaurant

bursting into tears again, she understands his pain "The cause of my unhappiness was a broken heart..."

Inori, who can't bear to see it anymore, consoles him. "Well, I'm sure you'll find another girl you like soon!"

"Really?"

"I-I can't make any promises, but..."

"Jeez!" Miki yells at the man. "A grown man shouldn't cry like that! Are you a spoiled child?"

Meanwhile, Setsuna suddenly finds someone she's interested in among the onlookers. "That man..." He's the man with the shoulder bag and the dolphin keychain. When the man realizes that Setsuna is watching him, he quickly leaves.

Love notices and calls out to Setsuna. "What's wrong, Setsuna?"

"There was a guy with a dolphin keychain..."

"Huh? Ah! I know! He was there when Miyuki became a Sadness!"

"That's not all. That man is always present at the scene where Sadnesses appear."

"Eh? Is that so!?" Setsuna mutters with a sharp look. "Maybe he knows something..."

The next day

After getting out of school, Love, Miki, Inori, and Setsuna gather at Kaoru's donut cafe. The topic is Ms. Manami.

Miki asks Love a question while she was busy helping herself to some donuts. "So, Ms. Manami, did she skip school today as well?"

"Yeah...If she continues to be absent like this, she might be replaced by the temporary teacher."

Inori stops eating her donut and mutters. "If her fiancé dumped her, it might be understandable..." After she says that, she suddenly notices that all eyes are on her. "Eh?"

"Is that what it is?" When Love asks her, Inori suddenly turns red in the face and hastily excuses herself.

"Oh, no! I don't know! I've never experienced anything like that! I just thought so...what do you think, Miki?"

Miki gets nervous after being called out so suddenly. "Hey! Don't ask me! Setsuna is probably a better person..."

"Why!" Setsuna hastily retorts.

However, the four of them realize that there is another person here who is perfect for this kind of topic, so they ask in unison. "Kaoru! What's going on?"

"Gha!" Kaoru flinches at the sudden question, but says "Well, life's a lot of things. Just like there's a lot of donuts, too!"

"Yeah, I heard that before!" Love says quickly.

"Only you know the reason, right?" Kaoru picks up a donut, "A lot of people come here to buy donuts, but you don't know why, right? All you can do is make delicious donuts that make everyone smile! I'm sure there's something we can do, right?"

"What we can do...Yeah, I see! That's right!" Love smiles and stands up. "I'm going to Ms. Manami's house now! There might be something I can do for her!"

"Then take this with you! It's not exciting, but hey! Guha!" Kaoru hands her a bag full of donuts.

"Thank you, Kaoru!"

Love takes the bag and runs off in a flash.

Miki can't help but smile when she sees Love like that. "She's really obsessed when it comes to other people..."

Love has been to Ms. Manami's apartment only once before. It's located in a residential area a little far from the station, and seems to have been there for quite some time. The entrance doesn't have an automatic lock.

Ms. Manami told her, "They say it's a condominium, but that's just an apartment with hair on it." She said that, but Love still doesn't really understand the difference between a condominium and an apartment.

She takes the elevator up to the third floor. Ms. Manami's room is at the end of the hallway. Ring the doorbell. Once, twice... There was no response from inside. Just when Love is about to give up and leave, she suddenly hears a call from behind.

"Ms. Monomozo..." Love turns around and sees Ms. Manami standing there holding a convenience store bag. "There you go. Come in."

"Ah, Ms. Manami. Thanks!" Love gives Ms. Manami the bag of donuts that Kaoru gave her.

"Thank you! I'll make some tea now." Ms. Manami goes to the kitchen and starts boiling water.

Ms. Manami's apartment is a 1DK*, and although it isn't very large, it is well-organized. There's nothing inside that looks like a stuffed animal, and the overall monotone color gives it a mature feel. There is a round glass table in the space next to the bed. The TV, air conditioner, and DVD remote controls are neatly arranged on the table. Love thinks that her teacher is very methodical.

*1DK apartment: An apartment with a bedroom and a separate kitchen and dining area.

"It's small, but please sit comfortably!" Doing as she's told, Love sits down in an empty seat. Shortly thereafter, Ms. Manami comes over with tea and donuts on a tray.

Love is relieved for the time being, especially seeing how Ms. Manami looks the same as usual. "I'm glad you look better than I expected!"

"Do I look okay?" Ms. Manami asks while still smiling, and Love can't help but ask back.

"Wait, aren't you feeling fine?"

"Ahaha!" This time, Ms. Manami laughs out loud.

"Love just goes and says it straight. It's amazing."

"Ah, I'm sorry. But..."

"I'm sorry for having to miss school all the time..."

"Is something wrong?"

"Yeah... something's wrong." Ms. Manami says that with a downcast look, and she sips her tea.

"Well, if there's anything I can do for you, please let me know."

Ms. Manami smiles sadly, "Hehe... Really, Ms. Monomozo is nosy."

"Eh....." Love is confused by the unexpected response.

"But maybe it's natural. After all, Ms. Monomozo is Cure Peach who protects everyone's happiness."

Love almost spit out the donut she was eating. Well, she spits out a little bit. "H-how did you know..."

"Huh? Everyone in this town knows about that." Ms. Manami says while wiping off the donut pieces that flew onto the table.

It's true.....

In the past, Love and the others broke the Pretty Cure rules and transformed into Pretty Cures right in front of the people on Clover Town Street. Even though the people who went to the shopping district knew it seemed impossible, they started talking. Naturally, it didn't take long for the rumor to spread throughout the town.

However, since they defeated Labyrinth's Lord Moebius, they had not transformed into Pretty Cures even once in the past year, so both the townspeople and Love and the others had completely forgotten about it.

But we're back to being Pretty Cures again... Love is sure the people in the town who have forgotten will remember it, just like Ms. Manami. And then she might be a little bit famous. *What about Miki and Buki? Are they getting asked for autographs?* Love wondered, suddenly thinking about carefree things.

"Ms. Monomozo is amazing..."

"Ehh?"

"I think it's really amazing to fight for the happiness of others..."

"Oh no, it's not really a big deal~" Love can't help but feel embarrassed.

"I can't even grasp my own happiness..." Seeing her teacher, Manami, muttering to herself with a sad look on her face, Love feels ashamed of herself for being so bashful even for a moment.

Already! I'm an idiot! She came to cheer up Ms. Manami, but on the contrary, she's so happy to be praised, and what would she do if she let her most important teacher down?

Love tries to lighten the mood by stuffing herself with a delicious donut. "Hmm, I'm so happy! Kaoru's donuts are always delicious! No

matter what bad things happen, you'll forget about them and start smiling! Hey, try them too!"

Ms. Manami looks at Love as she offers the donut with a smile, and then lowers her gaze to her again. "Not everyone is as strong as you..."

"Ms. Manami..." Love realizes that the darkness in Ms. Manami's heart is deeper than she imagined. The conversation stops, and Love suddenly looks around, and then something jumps into Love's field of vision.

A dolphin keychain! Ms. Manami's wallet is placed on the edge of the table. She has the same dolphin key chain as that guy who always appears in the places where Sadnesses appears. *I thought I saw it somewhere!* Love thinks back. A few days ago, when Love had a career consultation with Ms. Manami, she bought Love a drink from the vending machine in the procurement department. At that time, Love was looking at the dolphin key chain that was attached to the teacher's wallet!

She notices Love's gaze and realizes that it is directed at the key chain attached to her wallet. Ms. Manami starts talking, even though she isn't even being asked. "Oh, that keychain was given to me by my fiancé."

"Ehh!" Love is surprised by her unexpected words. *Well, then...that man who always appears whenever Sadnesses appear is Ms. Manami's fiancé~?*

"To be precise, my ex-fiancé...but..."

"Uggg...!" This time, instead of spitting out the donut...it gets stuck in Love's throat. "I-I'm okay!" Love quickly washes it down with tea. "I mean, after all... there are rumors that you broke up with your fiancé...."

"It's true. Hehe, there's already a rumor..."

"Ah! I mean.... that's just a rumor..." Love regrets that she had said the wrong thing again.

However, Ms. Manami smiles and says to Love, "Thank you for worrying about me and coming today."

After hearing those words, Love decides to leave the apartment. When Love puts on her shoes at the entrance, she greets Ms. Manami with a smile. "Well then, please excuse me!"

"Yeah"

"Please come to school again. Everyone is waiting for you."

"Yeah....." Ms. Manami also answers with a smile. That smile is the biggest smile of the day. Love leaves the room feeling a little relieved.

In fact, Manami herself felt a little better after meeting Love. She certainly can't stay depressed forever. She needs to be able to go to school soon...she's starting to think it would be possible soon.

However, behind Manami, a black mist is drifting...

Sunday

Miki is heading over to Love's house. There, everyone is going to discuss future measures against Demon Fist and the Sadnesses. Suddenly, a car horn sounds from behind her. Miki stops and turns around. The driver's window opens and a person Miki knows well appears.

"I have something to talk about..."

"But I'm on my way to Love's house..."

"I won't take up much of your time. It'll be over soon."

"Alright," After saying that, Miki opens the passenger door and gets in.

At Love's house, her father, Keitaro, is reading a weekly magazine in the living room. Ayumi brings tea to him. "Here you go, dear."

"Hey, take a look at this."

"What happened?" Ayumi looks at the weekly magazine article that Keitaro handed her and reads the headline. "Detective Pet Scoop, the show is in danger of ending...huh? This show..."

"That's right. It's that same show where they tried to make Tarte look like a ferret without a belly button." It's an animal variety show hosted by a talent named Animal Yoshida. In the past, Animal Yoshida, who was worried about the show's low ratings, tried to kidnap Tarte in order to get a scoop on him. However, when Love tells him that Tarte is an important family member, Animal Yoshida realizes that it was an act that separated precious family members and gives him back.

Since then, the show has changed its direction to become an animal-friendly program that can be enjoyed by families, but ironically, the show's ratings have started to decline and the article says that the show is about to end.

"Oh, that's a shame..."

"Still, it's been going on for a year since then, so I guess it's inevitable that it ends." Keitaro closes the weekly magazine and suddenly looks up at the ceiling. Love's room on the second floor had been buzzing for a while for some reason.

"Who's coming?"

"Ah, the usual people. But I still haven't seen Miki." Then, just in time, the door chime rings.

"Oh, speak of the devil, I guess." Ayumi hurries to the front door and opens it, and as she expects, it's Miki.

"Sorry for disturbing you!"

"Please come! Everyone is waiting!"

"So, her fiancé..." As Love is explaining to the assembled Inori, Setsuna, Tart, Chiffon, and Azukina, the door swings open and Miki appears.

"I'm sorry I'm late!"

"Hey! You're late, Miki!" Love pouts.

"It's unusual for you to be late, Miki." Inori asks Miki in a whisper.

"Did something happen?"

"Uh, nothing special..."

"We were just talking to Love, and it seems like the guy with the dolphin keychain was Ms. Manami's fiancé." Setsuna summarizes the process up to this point and explains it to Miki.

Tarte then continues, "So, considering the sequence of events, we started talking about whether or not her fiancé is Demon Fist!"

"What happened! Cure-a!" Chiffon imitates Tarte's ending and repeats it. Chiffon seems to like doing that recently.

"So, if that's the case, I wonder if Ms. Manami will be the next target..." As she starts to speak, Love realizes that Miki's mind is the sky above. "Miki, are you listening?"

"Huh? Oh...sorry!"

"Your complexion doesn't look very good, is there something wrong with you?" Even Azukina was worried and asked Miki.

"Ugh! Sorry, I just felt a little hot!" Miki sticks out her tongue and apologizes.

"Anyways, we were talking about catching her fiancé and revealing his true identity!" After Love's interjection, Setsuna continues, "I'm sure he'll show up again...then that's our chance."

"Yeah...Yeah, I understand." Miki nods.

However, Inori is concerned about Miki, who doesn't seem to be into the conversation at all. *I wonder what happened, Miki doesn't look like her usual self...*

There's a figure floating above the sky watching Love's meeting from outside the room. "Pretty Cure, you're going to keep getting in my way...but it's okay." Demon Fist grins. "I've found your weakness." Demon Fist flips his cloak and leaves.

One day later

Inori is on her way home from school when she notices Miki coming up from the front. "Ah, Miki...!" Inori immediately tries to wave to and run towards her, but Miki doesn't notice, instead walking down a side street. It is in a different direction from Miki's house. Inori hurriedly follows her. "Miki..." Inori swallows as she tries to speak again.

Miki's behavior seems strange. Instead of walking with her back straight and strutting as usual, she's walking quickly, slouching forward and paying attention to her surroundings.

Since the day of that meeting at Love's house, Inori has felt that Miki's behavior is strange. She's always thinking about something and it doesn't seem like she's in the same place as everyone else.

Miki stops in front of a coffee shop and goes inside, still in her school uniform and casual clothes. "At the coffee shop..." Inori knows she has to

turn back. Even her best friend has privacy, of course. She shouldn't go any further from here. She knows this in her head, but her concern for her friend outweighs it by a hair. That's how suspicious Miki's behavior is.

Inori enters the coffee shop in her uniform. For a moment, she prays that Miki doesn't see her. She gingerly looks around the shop and sees Miki sitting at a table in the back with her back to her. There seems to be an adult man sitting across from her, but she can't see his face as he is in front of Miki.

"She's with a man..." Inori sits down on a nearby seat so that Miki won't notice, while being conscious of the pounding of her heartbeat. There she sees the man's face for the first time. The dandy-looking man is someone Inori knows. "I'm sure that person is Miki's father!"

The man is Miki's father, Ichijo Katsuhiko. Now divorced, he lives with Miki's younger brother, Kazuki. He is a music producer and is well known in the industry. "She still sees her father..." Miki is just meeting her father at the coffee shop. Inori's mind races with many different thoughts. She quickly tries to get up before the waitress comes to take her order. But at that moment, Ichijo's words come to her ears and Inori stops moving.

"Do you want to reconsider going to Paris?"

Paris.....?

The waitress comes over to take her order. Inori reluctantly orders pineapple juice.

Miki is silent. *What do you mean, going to Paris? I've never heard of this...!*

As if he can hear Inori's inner voice, Ichijo tries to persuade Miki. "I know you're worried about your mom, but this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!"

To summarize Ichijo's story, it seems that Miki was invited by an acquaintance of Ichijo who runs a modeling agency in Paris to work as a model after she graduates from junior high school. Under normal circumstances, Inori thinks it would be questionable, but Ichijou is a first-class music producer. She's sure that acquaintance is also a first-class modeling agency.

Amazing...! Miki! Inori's heart is pounding as if it's her own future. She is thirsty, and she drinks up the pineapple juice that she had ordered in no time. However, Miki's reply that jumped into Inori's ear is a phrase that Inori had never imagined.

"I'm no longer interested in modeling."

Ehh..... Inori, shocked, becomes completely motionless.

"So, we're done here! See you!"

"Wait, Miki!"

That's why she doesn't hear Miki's father try to stop her. Inori can't even move her finger holding the straw, she just stares at Miki's face.

"Buki....."

"Ah...Umm....." Miki stands still with a surprised expression on her face, and Inori wonders if there's a better excuse for her, but what comes to her mind is, "Wow, I was about to leave too....."

Miki and Inori leave the coffee shop and walk together. Clearly, an awkward atmosphere.

"I'm sorry. I didn't mean to eavesdrop on you..."

"Don't tell my mom that I met dad."

"Yes, I understand."

And silence again. That's not what Inori wants to talk about. But she hesitates to say it. Inori doesn't have the right to tell Miki what she has already decided for herself. No matter how close they are, Miki's future belongs to her.

But you're lying! Inori screams in her heart. *Miki, you're cheating yourself!* There is no way that Miki has lost interest in modeling. But if she goes to Paris and gets the job, she would be leaving her mother alone...that's why she refuses to talk with her father... Inori is sure of that. *Really, it seems to be me...*

Unlike Inori, Miki, who is a little more talkative than usual, speaks to Inori. Before the meeting at Love's house the other day, she suddenly gets invited into her father's car, to talk about going to Paris. Miki says he cut her off. "Papa really is trouble too! He's been taking care of Kazuki all this time, and he hasn't been talking to me, but suddenly he say, 'Go to Paris!'"

"Yeah, that's right...it's troublesome, isn't it?"

"Hey! You think so too, don't you? I've lost interest in modeling, and he's gone..." That's Inori's limit. "What...?"

"Miki, I think that you shouldn't lie to yourself..." Once she says that, there's no stopping. "Miki, you really want to go to Paris and train as a model! You can't hide it!"

"Hey, what are you saying Buki? No, I'm really not interested in being a model..."

"That's a lie!" Like a broken dam, Inori's mouth overflows with words one after another. "It's obvious, Miki! I'm sure your father knows it too! That's why I'll never stop telling you to go to Paris even if you refuse! If you talk to your mother properly, she will surely understand..."

"Come on!" Miki gets angry. "What are you talking about? You were secretly following me, and now you're preaching too? What are you doing? This isn't your problem!"

"I'm sorry. But..."

"You, an honor student, don't know how I feel!" After she shouts that, Miki runs away, leaving Buki behind.

Inori simply stands there, unable to stop her or follow her. Inori feels like it was her fault. She knew this was going to happen...so she thought she should keep quiet...but she just couldn't do it... "Now, I'm being just like Love" But Love doesn't make the other person uncomfortable with her innate naivety. *Compared to me...* Inori smiles wryly — and she cries.

Around the same time

After school, Love and Setsuna are walking together. In order to return to Labyrinth, Setsuna supposedly transferred schools, but she wants to see the faces of everyone in the class for the first time in a long time. So she clings to Love and goes to school with her.

Love was promoted from the second to the third year, but the class is still the same. Her former classmates welcome Setsuna's sudden visit. However, her homeroom teacher, Manami Kudo, is still not there. So naturally Love and Setsuna's conversation turned to Ms. Manami.

"I'm thinking about Ms. Manami, and I'm worried..."

"Well... Demon Fist hasn't appeared since then..."

"I'm thinking of going to her house again, will you come with me?"

"Yeah, I get it. I'll go with you... ah!" Just then, Setsuna notices Ms. Manami's fiancé walking on the opposite sidewalk across the road. "Love, look!"

"Ah! We can finally get him!"

"It might be a good chance to catch him..."

"Huh? In a place with so many people?" There certainly are a lot of people around.

"Love, you should go to Ms. Manami's apartment first! I'll catch up with you!"

"Huh? Are you okay alone? That guy might be Demon Fist, you know."

"Who do you think I am?" Unusually, Setsuna shows a little bit of mischievousness.

"Right!"

"In case there's an emergency, I have two helpers in Labyrinth." Setsuna smiles as she crosses the pedestrian crossing where the light has just turned green and follows the man.

Love visits Ms. Manami apartment again and presses the doorbell.

Ding dong... This time, the door opens at the first ding, and Ms. Manami appears.

"Hello, Ms. Manami!"

"Ms. Momozono...you're here again, aren't you?" Ms. Manami seems somewhat tired. Love is worried for a moment that she'll be turned away, but the teacher opens the door wide and lets her in.

"Go ahead. Come in."

"Sorry, teacher. I came empty-handed today."

"Don't worry about it. Is juice okay?" Ms. Manami takes orange juice out of her refrigerator and pours it into a glass.

"Here."

"Thank you." Love immediately tells her why she came today. "You know, Ms. Manami, do you know about the Sadness monsters that have been haunting us lately?"

"Yes, of course."

"They're created by a bad guy called Demon Fist who attacks the weak and turns them into monsters!"

Love wants to say he attacks those with a weak *heart*, but she left out the heart part. She isn't that careless. "So...I was wondering if you were okay, and I got a little worried."

"About me?"

"Has anything changed recently?"

"Anything changed?" Ms. Manami thinks for a moment, "Uh, I don't think so." That isn't really true. In fact, recently, she's been losing her memory sometimes. Before she realizes anything, she falls asleep and she seems to be somewhere else.

Recently, she was shopping at the supermarket and suddenly found herself lying in the manager's office. According to the store clerk, she suddenly lost consciousness while shopping and collapsed. She thinks that her fiancé is the cause of her anxiety, and doesn't tell Love about it. And for some reason, she's beginning to feel annoyed by Love's concern.

"Ms. Momozono"

"Yes?"

"I'll do my best to return to school as soon as possible, so... can you leave me alone?"

But instead of leaving, Love says "I can't leave you alone. You're my favorite teacher."

Really, this child is..... She thinks it's annoying, but then she finds herself in tears.

"Ms. Manami, are you okay?"

"Yes...I'm sorry." Manami wipes her tears, then says with a smile, "Take it easy today."

At that time

Setsuna is following Ms. Manami's fiancé from a distance. When there are no people around, Setsuna intends to call him out and ask some questions. Depending on how he behaves, she might have to transform and fight. Setsuna involuntarily grips Linkrun.

And suddenly the man starts running! *He's trying to get away!* Setsuna panics and starts chasing after him. The man's surprisingly fast on his feet. Setsuna is getting further and further behind. But the fact that he's desperately running makes Setsuna certain that he's Demon Fist.

"I won't let you go!" Setsuna shouts while running, inserting Akarun into Linkrun! "Akarun!" The next moment, Setsuna flashed red for a moment and disappeared!

"Ahhhh!" Suddenly, Setsuna teleports in front of the man. "Hey!" The man panics and tries to escape in another direction. But, *shun!* Setsuna teleports in front of him again. "Woah!" *Shun! Shun! Shun! Shun!* No matter how many times he runs away, Setsuna stands in front of him with teleportation. And before long, the man is cornered in a blind alley. There's no one around except the two of them.

"There's nowhere else to run! Give up and reveal yourself!"

"Wait a minute! What are you talking about? Who are you!"

"Don't be silly! I won't let you make Ms. Manami sad anymore!"

"Ms. Manami...? Then, are you a student at Manami's school?"

"What are you playing at? Demon Fist!"

"Demon Fist? Do you know that man?" The story doesn't make much sense. "Calm down and listen! I'm not Demon Fist! I'm Kazama Kentaro! Manami's childhood friend!"

"Ms. Manami's childhood friend? But aren't you her fiancé?"

"That's not true either! Do you know that? You're misunderstanding something. I'm begging you, please listen to me!" It doesn't seem like he's lying.

Come on, Love! Why are you sending me after the wrong person!
Setsuna develops a grudge against Love in her heart.

"There you go, Maito~!"

Seeing that the last customer bought a donut and left, Kaoru calls out to the truck. "You guys can come out now!" They all pop out from inside! Tarte, Chiffon, and finally Azukina. Everyone has donuts.

"Honah, I'll take it without hesitation."

"Yeah! Curea!"

Azukina also thanks him, and she was the first to bite into the donut. "Uh~~n! It's delicious~~~~!" They are enjoying the donuts.

"Anyway, when Azukina came to Yotsuba, she wanted to eat Kaoru's donuts first, so I brought her here!"

"That's something that makes me happy~! Well, I'll serve you a drink!"

Tarte takes a bite of the donut, then looks at Azukina and smiles wryly, "Hey, Azukina, you said that you didn't want to come with me

because you didn't want to leave home, so did you really come just to eat donuts?"

"That's not true!" Azukina instinctively denies it and blushes shyly, "Donuts come second... Tarte comes first..."

"Azukina....."

"Tarte....." Tarte and Azukina forget about Chiffon and Kaoru for a moment; their whole world's just the two of them. "As usual, you're on fire... would you like to marry me?"

Seeing those two, Kaoru smiles. "Hey, I'll be your matchmaker! I don't have a wife! Hahah!"

Azukina laughs! After she realizes that Kaoru's there, she blushes. "No more~~! Kaoru's mean!" Unable to bear her embarrassment, she jumps out of the donut truck and runs away. Azukina runs to the edge of the park. Then suddenly a figure appears in front of her.

She quickly stops and looks up — there is a man in a black cloak with a hood over his eyes! Cold terror shoots through her.

"What, are you embarrassed?"

"Embarrassed!! Curea Curea!" Tarte and Chiffon are amused.

"Kyaaaaaaaaaaaaa!" Suddenly they hear Azukina's scream!

"Azukina!"

The man in the black cloak stuffs Azukina into his cloak and rides off on his motorcycle. However, Kaoru, who rushes over quickly, stands in front of the bike! "Wait a minute! That's my friend's fiancé."

He's nearly hit by the motorcycle and dodges.

At that moment, the motorcycle that has kidnapped Azukina speeds off!

"Tarte—!"

"Ahhhh! Azukina!" Tarte's blood pressure rises and he chases after her, but the bike disappears from view.

The man in the black cloak abducts Azukina and escapes on a motorcycle. The hood comes off from the wind, revealing his face. His true identity is Animal Yoshida. *Things that look like talking chipmunks... if you have this guy, the audience rating will go up at once! The program won't be canceled!*

Kaoru chases after the motorcycle in his truck. Tarte and Chiffon ride along. However, it took him a while to clean up the donut cafe and he completely lost track of the bike.

"Oh no! The bike's nowhere to be found.... huh?!"

Kaoru grins at Tarte screaming, who starts scratching his head. "Don't panic, brother." Kaoru presses a button on the navigation system, and a red dot appears and begins moving on the map. "Hey, I found them!"

In fact, when Kaoru was about to be hit by the motorcycle, he dodged and attached a small transmitter to the motorcycle.

"Really.....Kaoru, who are you....."

At that time, Animal Yoshida's motorcycle is running at a considerable speed on a loose curve. Then, Azukina crawls out of his cloak and struggles to escape. "Hey! Don't act violently! It's dangerous!" However, instead of calming down, Azukina bites the arm of Animal

Yoshida, who is holding the steering wheel! "Ahhh!" With that, he loses control of the bike, which goes off balance and rolls over at the curve! Azukina and Animal Yoshida are blown into the air!

When Kaoru's truck arrives, Animal Yoshida is just about to be taken away in an ambulance. Police officers are busy directing traffic and taking pictures of the wrecked motorcycle.

"Oh! Where's Azukina? Where's Azukina!"

Tarte frantically looks around.

"Well, maybe she's under the bike..."

"Don't say things like that!" Suddenly, they hear a voice behind them and turn around to find Azukina! "Azukina!"

"Tarte!" Tarte and Azukina hug each other.

Seeing those two, Kaoru smiles. "That's why I'm a matchmaker..." He turned to Chiffon and said, "Do you like being a wingman with me?"

"Curea!" Whether she understands the meaning or not, Chiffon jumps around with glee.

That night

Inori goes to Miki's house. It's to apologize to Miki for the daytime affair. She arrives and finds that Miki's mother, Remi, has just closed her hair salon.

"Oh, Inori!"

"Good evening" Seeing Remi, who speaks to her cheerfully as usual, Inori thinks that Remi hasn't heard anything from Miki yet. She hasn't, or... suddenly, Inori has another hunch and asks Remi, "Um, Miki..."

"Oh, she hasn't come back yet; I thought for sure she was with you and the others." Inori hunch is right. "I think she'll be back soon, so why don't you go up and wait?"

But... it must be my fault that Miki hasn't returned... Because she said something that hurt Miki's feelings, Inori decided to decline. "No... it's not a big deal, so please excuse me for today."

"Really? Then take care."

"Yes! Good day" Inori bows politely and leaves. But as soon as she rounds the corner and gets out of Remi's sight, she starts running as fast as she can.

Inori has only one thing on her mind. *If Miki's not home, I think she's probably there...!* Inori is thinking of the park where everyone practiced dancing.

"Eh? It's already this late!!" Love, who has stayed at Ms. Manami's apartment for too long, starts to get ready to leave.

However, Ms. Manami stops Love. "Oh, it's not a big deal, so go ahead and stay for dinner."

"Huh? But..."

"Don't be shy." It seems to Love that Ms. Manami is acting cheerful and unreasonable, and Love starts to get nervous.

"Ah...well..."

The smile disappears from Ms. Manami's face when she sees that Love doesn't want to stay. "...I don't want to eat alone."

Love makes her decision when she sees those dark, sunken eyes. "Then I'll stay for dinner!"

"Until it's done, Ms. Momozono, you can watch a little TV!" Ms. Manami smiled and headed to the kitchen.

"Wow! I'm so looking forward to Ms. Manami cooking! I wonder what she'll make?"

Thump!

"Eh?" Suddenly, a loud noise comes from the kitchen, and Love turns around in a panic. Her eyes involuntarily widen at the sight in front of her. "Ms. Manami!" In the kitchen, Ms. Manami has lost consciousness and falls down to the floor. "Teacher! Ms. Manami!" She doesn't respond to Love's desperate calls.

Inside Kaoru's car

Tarte tries to cheer up the depressed Azukina. "What's wrong, Azukina?"

"It's my fault that I caused an accident and injured him...because I bit his arm..."

"But... it's his fault that this happened in the first place!"

"He tried to help me..."

"Eh?"

According to Azukina, when the motorcycle flipped over and was blown into the air, Animal Yoshida immediately caught Azukina, held her in his arms, and crashed into the guardrail. Azukina is unharmed because Animal Yoshida's body became a cushion.

"Is that so..." Hearing that, Tarte's anger towards Animal Yoshida softens a little.

"Uchi, I'm worried...Tarte, do you want to visit him with me?"

"Yeah....."

"Well! Stew the balls, not the string, as I like to say!"

"What? What does that mean?"

"You hate the sin, not the sinner! Guha!" Saying that, Kaoru spins the steering wheel. The van makes a U-turn and heads for the hospital where Animal Yoshida is being transported to.

As Inori suspected, Miki is sitting on the usual park stage. Really, Miki wanted to get Kaoru to listen to her story, but by the time Miki arrived, his donut cafe was already closed and his van wasn't there either. Under the light of the street lamps, Miki is reflecting on the events of the day.

Buki was just worried about me... Miki is painfully aware of why she got so mad at Inori. Because everything she said is true. *That's right, Buki...* She's never given up on her dream of becoming a model. However, once she progressed to the third year of junior high school, her future course began to take on concrete shape, and Miki, who had solely been focusing on chasing her dreams until then, was forced to face reality.

One day, Remi sprained her ankle after slipping on the stairs, and had to take a week off from the store.

"Clumsy... I wonder if you're getting old."

Remi, who felt weak, jokingly said to Miki, "I would be more than happy if you took over this salon."

Normally, Miki would yell, "What are you talking about, mama! You can't just give up the salon!", but Miki was different that day. Perhaps it was because she was thinking about the reality of her future. Even though she wants to be a model, what should she *really* do? Suddenly, becoming a model seemed unrealistic to Miki.

After seeing her daughter suddenly lost in thought, Remi followed up with a smile, "Hey, I'm just kidding! You have a dream of becoming a model! Ahh, don't be so serious, forget about what I just said!"

Miki suddenly began to tease Remi, and before she knew it, she would answer like, "No, it's okay. I'll always be with mama." As the spirit of words is said to be, once you put it into words and speak them, they seem as if they're the real thing. *Yes... that's alright.*

However, after hearing the story from her father, Katsuhiko Ichijo, about going to Paris, Miki's heart starts to waver. Her dream of becoming a model, which she had given up on, suddenly has the chance to become a reality. If this was from anyone other than her father, she might be able to consult her mom more honestly. And as Buki says, she's sure she'd understand. *I know that, but...* If she does that, she'd feel like she's choosing her dad over her mom. It worried her. Miki mutters, "I'm not perfect at all..." and hangs her head

But then. "Hahaha....."

Suddenly Miki hears the sneer of laughter! She looks up. "Who's there?" Miki sees a man in a black cloak standing in front of her, illuminated by the moonlight.

"Pretty Cure's weak point...that's you, Cure Berry..."

Miki immediately stands up and braces herself. "You're Demon Fist!"

"That's right...my name is Demon Fist!" Saying so, Demon Fist takes off his hood and stares into the back of Miki's soul. At that moment, Miki becomes unable to move, as if she's been paralyzed!

Ah, my body...!

"Hahah...just as I thought. You have darkness in your heart. You can't escape from me anymore..."

Darkness in my heart... that's not true! Miki desperately tries screaming that, but she's unable to speak.

"Are you sad?"

"Yes....."

"Is it painful?"

"Yes....." Regardless of how hard Miki tries, the words spill out of her mouth.

"The agony of lamenting for happiness that will never return...I know how to get out of that predicament and make it easier..."

"What's the method? Please tell me!" *My heart... it's being controlled!*

"It's a magic phrase."

"Magic phrase..."

"Just say it, say the words. That's it."

"Tell me! Those magic words!"

Seeing Miki begging desperately, Demon Fist grins behind his hood.

"You already know them."

At that moment, "a certain phrase" comes to Miki's mind.

I don't need happiness —.

Demon First's words are like the whisper of the devil, and begin to drag Miki into the world of darkness. "Now say the magic words that will free you from the pain in your heart!" Demon Fist grins, as though he's already convinced of his victory. *With this, one of the Pretty Cure falls into darkness...*

However, Miki mutters, "Such a thing....." while looking down. She raises her head and glares at Demon Fist, eyes burning with fighting spirit!

"What...? You think you're resisting me?"

Miki has large beads of sweat on her forehead, "Haa, haa...", breathing heavily — she is holding the Linkrun firmly in her hand. *Without Linkrun's power, I would have been in danger...*

"Huh... you're so annoying!"

"Don't underestimate the Pretty Cure!" Without hesitation, Miki manipulates Burun—, "Change! Pretty Cure, Beat Up!" and transforms in front of Demon Fist! "The blue heart is the emblem of hope! Freshly gathered! Cure Berry!"

Immediately, a fierce battle between Cure Berry and Demon Fist begins!

Inori goes to the usual park to meet Miki. Thinking to herself, *I'm sure Miki will be on stage...*, Inori goes to the stage, but Miki isn't there. *No? But I was sure...*

Then, suddenly, a bush moves—,

"Haaaa!" A man in a black cloak and Cure Berry jump out while fighting!

"Berry!"

"Ahhhh!" The man, dodging Cure Berry's kick, rushes towards Inori!

"Change!" Inori avoids the man and grabs her Linkrun! "Pretty Cure, Beat Up!" She instantly transforms into Cure Pine, but the situation is still unclear. "Berry! What's going on here?"

Berry answers immediately, "Be careful, Pine! This guy's Demon Fist!"

"Ehh!"

Love repeatedly calls out to Ms. Manami, who has suddenly collapsed in the kitchen. "Teacher! Ms. Manami!" However, Ms. Manami remains unconscious on the floor. Love quickly calls an ambulance with her Linkrun. "Hello! I need an ambulance, please! The address is, um..."

"Double Pretty Cure Kick!" Berry and Pine's double kick hits Demon Fist!

"Gah!" Demon Fist involuntarily flinches and backs away.

"Ugh....." Ms. Manami suddenly starts moaning, and Love hurriedly calls out to her.

"Are you okay? Ms. Manami! An ambulance is on the way right now!" They can hear the sound of an ambulance siren approaching.

The battle between Demon Fist, Cure Berry, and Cure Pine continues.

"Taah!"

"Hah!" Berry and Pine let loose punches and kicks one after another, but Demon Fist skillfully dodges left and right, grinning.

"Hahaha...that's a pretty good combination, isn't it? I can't believe that just a little while ago, you two were friends that just got into a depressing fight."

"!" Berry and Pine are startled by this! For a moment, they stop attacking. Both of them stare at each other..

Not letting the opportunity go to waste, Demon Fist flips his cloak and runs away while laughing loudly! "Hahahahahaha!"

"Ah!"

"Wait!"

In a hurry, the two Pretty Cures chase after him.

An ambulance finally arrives at Ms. Manami's apartment, and the ambulance crew skillfully carries her away. The ambulance carrying Ms. Manami leaves with its siren blaring as Love watches it worriedly.

"Ms. Manami....."

And then — Cure Berry and Cure Pine appear. "Love!"

"Love!"

"Eh! What? What happened?" Love asks in surprise as the two suddenly appear in their Pretty Cure forms.

"Did you see Demon Fist coming over here?"

"Huh? Demon Fist!?"

The ambulance speeds through the night time city, sirens blaring. Manami, who is on the stretcher, is still unconscious. The paramedics in the ambulance are in radio contact with the hospital that she is being transported to.

But then! A figure in a black cloak suddenly jumps out from the side!

"Woah!" The ambulance driver immediately slams on the brakes. The ambulance screeches to a halt in the middle of the road. But not quickly enough to avoid a collision. The ambulance driver rushes outside to see the black-cloaked figure that he had hit.

However, there is no such figure. "It's strange... at that speed, I should have definitely hit it, but..." Thinking of it more, he realizes that there wasn't any shock when it hit. The driver still checks the ambulance to be sure, but there are no scratches anywhere on the ambulance. Assuming

it was just his imagination, the driver returns to the ambulance and finds the paramedics who are in the ambulance shouting.

"Kudo, can you hear me? Kudo!"

Manami opens her eyes on the stretcher. "I...why am I in an ambulance..."

In front of Manami's apartment, Miki and Inori, who have reverted their transformations, explain to Love what has happened so far.

"Alright, so you're chasing after Demon Fist... Huh? But the fact that Demon Fist appeared at Miki's side...are you worried about something, Miki?"

"Well, ..." Miki glances at Inori, then she looks away again awkwardly.

"Eh?"

"You see, Love..."

Inori starts to explain --

"Love!" Setsuna joins the others.

"Setsuna!" Setsuna isn't alone. Kentaro was with her.

"Eh! Why are you with Ms. Manami's fiancé?"

But Setsuna doesn't answer, and instead she tensely asks Love, "What about Ms. Manami? Where is she now?"

"Uhhhh...just now, an ambulance took her to a hospital..." Love answers.

"Alright....." Setsuna nods with a grim face, takes a deep breath, then speaks to Love and the others. "Alright. Calm down and listen. I've figured out who Demon Fist really is." Setsuna's next words are shocking. "The true identity of Demon Fist is Ms. Manami!"

For a moment, Love is dumbfounded. "What are you talking about? Ms. Manami is a woman..."

"Demon Fist is a man, right?" Kentaro continues after Love.

Miki chimes in as well, "That's right! Please explain so that I can understand!"

"We'll discuss the details in the car. Anyway, let's hurry to the hospital where Manami was taken!" Suddenly, Ms. Manami's fiancé interrupts their conversation, confusing Love and the others further. There is still no explanation as to why he's with Setsuna yet.

"The car's over there!" Love, Miki, and Inori start running as Setsuna urges them on.

Kentaro's car, with Setsuna in the passenger seat and Love, Miki, and Inori in the back seats, speeds through the nighttime city. There aren't any traffic jams and traffic is moving smoothly. Kentaro speeds up, while still paying attention to the speed limit.

"Eh, isn't Kentaro Ms. Manami's fiancé?"

"No, I'm her childhood friend. When I was in kindergarten, we used to play in the sandbox a lot. At the end, we usually got into fights and she made me cry. Hahaha!" Kentaro laughs with nostalgia for the old days.

"Ever since kindergarten..." Love tries to imagine Ms. Manami's while she was in kindergarten, but she's drawing a blank.

"So, when he heard that her fiance dumped her, she consulted with Kentaro on various things." Setsuna fills in some details. After cornering Kentaro in a blind alley, Setsuna thought that something's wrong, and later heard the truth from Kentaro.

Love remembers Daisuke's story, "Then, the man Ms. Manami was arguing with at the coffee shop in front of the arcade..."

"That was probably me. It seems that the students in the class were watching me. I was careless..." After saying that, Kentaro begins telling Love and the others about the story he's already told to Setsuna.

That day, Kentaro met Manami at the window seat of a coffee shop in front of the station. They didn't choose the window side for any particular reason, other than it was just the only place that was free.

"So forget about your fiancé. Okay?"

"Yeah... ok." The two of them take their seats.

Manami takes her wallet out of her purse. Kentaro tried to stop her, saying that it's okay for him to — Manami's wallet had the dolphin key chain attached to it.

"You still have it on?"

"Ehh? Uhhhh..... !" Manami subconsciously grabs the key chain and hides it. The key chain is a memento that Manami bought together with her fiancé at the aquarium she went to for the first time.

Forget about your fiancé — Kentaro was a little irritated when he found the key chain after just talking about it. "I told you to throw it away."

"Yeah, I'm sorry....I'll throw it away."

"Then take it off now."

"Ehhh....." Manami hesitates.

This frustrated Kentaro even more. "Then I'll take it off." Kentaro slowly tried to take Manami's wallet.

"Stop!" Manami immediately hides her wallet. "I'll throw it away! I'll throw it away!" She desperately tried to appeal to Kentaro. The surrounding guests looked at the two, wondering what was going on.

Kentaro stops the car at a red light. "I think that's probably what your friend saw." The light turns green and the car starts. "After that, little by little, Manami started to go crazy..."

Kentaro begins to talk about what happened on another day.

When Kentaro came back after buying canned juice from a vending machine in the park, Manami was sitting on a bench looking at the couples around her.

"Yes," Manami kept her eyes focused on the happy couples around her, and she didn't even notice that he offered her a drink. "Why am I the only one..." Her eyes were dark and sunken, "I wish everyone was unhappy!"

At that time, Kentaro saw a black mist rising behind Manami. It looked like it had seeped out of her body.

"A black mist?" Miki immediately asks back in the back seat. The car activates its turn signal and turns right.

"Oh... at the time I thought it was an optical illusion or something. But then something crucial happened....." Kentaro, who's holding the steering wheel, grimaces as he recalls that day. "That day, she said she wanted to see the ocean, so I took her for a drive..."

Manami was standing on a rock wall and looking out at the sea. When Kentaro approached, she spoke with dark eyes, "After he called me to say goodbye, we met here again...because I wasn't convinced by just a phone call."

"Yeah....."

"So, then I got dumped clearly" As Manami stared at the sea, she smiled sadly.

"Why are we in a place like that?" When Kentaro asks, Manami takes her wallet out of her bag and removes her dolphin keychain.

"I thought that if I had to throw it away, then I had to throw it away." Manami puts her wallet back in her bag and grabs her keychain. "I figured this was the place to get rid of it."

"I see....."

"Look, I, I'll throw it away properly."

"Okay."

Manami raised her hand holding the key chain. But as soon as she did, her face distorted and her eyes filled with tears. She couldn't move her raised arm. "Uh, uhhhh....."

"Throw it away! Manami!" Kentaro's words, which he shouted with the intention of encouraging her, actually broke Manami's heart.

"No! I can't!" The raised arm hangs there weakly, and doesn't throw the keychain into the sea.

"Throw it away! If you don't throw it away, you won't be happy!" Kentaro didn't realize that the more he tried to encourage her, the more he was driving her into a corner.

It seemed as if nothing was reflected in Manami's dark, sunken eyes. With such despair in her eyes, Manami finally spoke the forbidden words. "Then... I don't have to be happy."

At that moment, a black mist erupted from Manami's body; clearly this time! "Manami!"

"I don't need happiness" Manami fainted and collapsed when she muttered that.

"Manami!" Just when Kentaro rushed over to Manami! The black haze became corporeal and transformed into a man in a black hooded cloak.

"My name is Demon Fist." After saying that, the man flips his cloak and jumps.

"So what happened!?" Inori leans forward and asks Kentaro.

"Then, I put the unconscious Manami in the car and chased after Demon Fist"

Setsuna in the passenger seat continues. "Then Demon Fist slipped into Miyuki's house, and after a few minutes, a Sadness jumped out..."

Love nods. "Just when me and Miki were returning from Buki's house..."

"I definitely thought Demon Fist had turned her into a monster, so I followed him in the car..."

"Fushiawase! Da-da-dancing!" The monster moved towards the shopping district while swinging its long, thin arms. Kentaro turned the steering wheel and chased after it. However, the road was filled with people fleeing in panic, and it was impossible to get further by car.

Kentaro parked his car on the side of the road, left the unconscious Manami in the passenger seat, and approached the monster while pushing his way through the people who were trying to escape.

"What's going on here...!" When he looked closer, Kentaro saw that the monster danced a strange dance and attacked people who failed to escape. The people who were attacked also start dancing like the monster. Their bodies seem to move on their own regardless of what they want.

"Did Manami create this monster?" Kentaro stared up at the monster with a sad look on his face.

"It's dangerous here!" Suddenly, a voice behind him called out. When he turned around, a junior high school girl spoke to him with a tense look. "Please run away quickly!"

"Ah... Yes." Kentaro fled the scene and tried to return to the car where Manami was left behind. But he's caught in waves of people trying to escape, and he can't quite get to where he parked his car.

That's when, "Change! Pretty Cure Beat Up!" Kentaro saw three girls transform into Pretty Cure. One of them is the girl who called out to him earlier.

I see...she was a Pretty Cure... It's true that they might be the only ones who can stop that monster... If that monster really is Manami's creation, he wanted the situation to be resolved as soon as possible. Before he knew it, Kentaro was cheering. "Good luck! Pretty Cure!"

"And when I finally got back to the car after watching you Pretty Cures defeat the monster, Manami was gone." The car carrying them all is very close to the hospital where Manami was taken. "After that, no matter how many times I called or emailed, there was no response..."

"So, every time a Sadness appeared, he thought that Ms. Manami might be nearby, so he rushed to the scene." Setsuna adds.

"But the Sadness wasn't created by Ms. Manami..."

"Ah, I've thought of that." Kentaro answers before Miki finishes.

"Demon Fist takes advantage of the gaps in the hearts of people who are unhappy or have worries, and turns them into monsters, right? But if it's Manami who created Demon Fist, it's the same thing after all..." Kentaro's face darkens. "That's why we can't let there be any more victims!"

Miki murmurs, "There must be many people in the hospital who are suffering from anxiety and worries..."

"It's supposed to be a place that gives hope and courage to such people!" Inori gets angry.

And Love does too! "If Demon Fist is trying to turn these patients into monsters, we must stop it!"

"We're going to do that now..." As he says that, the car finally arrives at the hospital. Love and the others noticed something strange at first glance. A large number of panicked inpatients, doctors, and nurses are running away from the hospital in a panic. "We're late!" Kentaro stops the car with a bitter look on his face and jumps out of the driver's seat. Love, Setsuna, Miki, and Inori quickly follow suit. As they approach the hospital, going through waves of fleeing people, they hear the screams of Sadnesses coming from inside the hospital.

"Fushiawase! Get well!"

"Fushiawase! Examination!"

It's not just one or two voices either.

"Leave it to us from here on! Kentaro, it's dangerous, so please stay back!" Love says as she picks up Linkrun. "Let's go, girls!"

Love, Miki, Inori, and Setsuna readied their Linkruns and jumped into the hospital!

"Change! Pretty Cure!"

Chapter 3 — Deliver your Feelings!

Loving True Heart

Shortly before Love and the others started rushing to the hospital, the ambulance carrying Manami arrived at the hospital. Manami regained consciousness in the ambulance, but as a precaution, she would be kept in the hospital overnight.

Again... Manami thought as she lay on her hospital bed, staring at the ceiling. *Ahhh, my mind is racing...* Manami remembers that Ms. Momozono came over, and she... they talked about having dinner, and she went to the kitchen...

"Ms. Monozono, please watch TV!" She also remembers saying that. But that's all she remembered. Her next memory is being in an ambulance.

Something is happening inside me... Manami finally faced her own secret, which she had been vaguely aware of until now, but which she had pretended not to notice out of fear.

"It seems like you're finally willing to face yourself." Suddenly, she heard a voice in her head that wasn't her own.

"Who are you?"

"My name is Demon Fist..."

"Demon Fist..."

"And I'm also you..."

"You're me...?"

"So I know exactly what you're thinking..."

"Lie! Don't say crazy things!" Manami tried to resist, but at the same time she intuitively knew that Demon Fist's words were true.

"You must be thinking like this... Why am I the only one who is unhappy?" It was completely true. The voice in her head continues speaking to her, "There are happy people and an equal number of unhappy people...A world where everyone is happy is just an illusion..."

She felt herself gradually becoming assimilated with the voices in her head. *That's right...this voice is mine...*

"Do you want to be happy?"

"Yes....."

"Then it's easy."

"Please tell me....." Manami and Demon Fist were then one and the same. Manami keeps asking herself the same question. "Tell me... how can I be happy?"

"You just have to make other people unhappy."

'Herself' answered.

It's after hours, and the lights in the hospital are out. Two figures are patrolling the dimly lit hallway with lights in their hands. Wester's temporary name is Nishi Hayato, and Soular's is called Minami Shun.

Hayato, dressed as a doctor in a white coat, grumbles. "Eas is rough with people..." Westar still calls Setsuna Eas.

"You're still good, you manage to look like a doctor. But why am I... a nurse?" Shun is dressed as a nurse.

"Isn't it unusual for two doctors to make rounds together?"

"If you ask me, only nurses are on patrol at night. Having just one doctor would be unnatural."

".....did you read that in a book?" Hayato teases.

Setsuna asked the two of them to keep an eye on Manami until she could show up, so they rushed in from the Labyrinth.

Hayato complained about it, "You don't have to go to the trouble of calling us, you can just use your special teleportation ability."

"That sounds quite tiring. It's quite exhausting to do it multiple times a day."

"Is it so?" Hayato does not know that Setsuna used a lot of short-range teleportation to corner Kentaro that day. The two of them arrive at Manami's hospital room and quietly open the door.

The room is dark. Just in case she's already fallen asleep, they quietly enter the room, so as not to wake her, and gently shine the light on the area near the bed. At that moment, both of their faces became stiff.

"She's gone!" The bed is completely empty.

Animal Yoshida, who was brought in with broken bones from the motorcycle accident, is also in a hospital room. Bandages are wrapped all over his body and it's painful, but luckily the fractures aren't as serious as it looked. "Huh..." Now, Animal Yoshida is furiously remorseful. Why did he do such a thing?

A year ago, when he tried to steal Tarte for the show's ratings, he realized it was equivalent to tearing a family apart and swore he would never do it again.

And yet...

When the man at the soba restaurant was turned into the Soba Sadness and went on a rampage in the mountain forest, Animal Yoshida happened to be filming the ecology of wild animals where the Pretty Cure were fighting while. There, he witnessed Azukina speaking.

"Hey! Peach, take this!" That was Azukina giving the Clover Box to Cure Peach.

Something that looks like a talking chipmunk is a huge scoop that can't be compared to something that looks like a ferret without a belly

button. Moreover, the viewership ratings of the program are poor and it's on the verge of being canceled, so even though Animal Yoshida had vowed never to do it again, he ended up thinking about taking Azukina. He then got information that Azukina often appeared at the donut cafe in that park, so he hid in the shadows for several days waiting for Azukina to come.

Animal Yoshida, who can only believe that the devil was at fault for this situation, is depressed and feels sorry for himself. *Finally, I've fallen to the ground...it's the worst!*

And then!

"Ehhh.....? " Suddenly, he notices a woman who appears to be a hospital patient standing in the corner of the room. "Um...you're in the wrong room."

But the woman — Manami — said in a man's voice. "My name is Demon Fist..."

"Demon Fist...?" Just like the previous victims, Animal Yoshida's mind is manipulated as soon as he is glared at by the Demon Fist.

"The pain of mourning the happiness that will never return...I know a way to escape from that predicament and become at ease..."

"How? Please tell me!"

"It's a magic phrase. Just say the words."

"Tell me! Those magic words!"

"You already know them..."

"!"

At that moment, a certain phrase came to Animal Yoshida's mind. "I don't need happiness" As soon as Animal Yoshida murmurs this, the power of Demon Fist transforms Animal Yoshida, wrapping him in bandages and transforming him into a Sadness.

Hayato, dressed as a doctor, and Shun, dressed as a nurse, are running around the hospital looking for Manami. "Geez! Where did she go!"

Just then, they heard a woman's scream.

"Over there!" Shun points in the direction of the voice and starts running!

"Fushiawase! Mummy—!" A mummy Sadness, fully wrapped in bandages, is about to attack a nurse, who is on her way out.

"S-someone, ah—!" Hayato and Shun rush over!

"Let's go, Westar!"

"Right!"

"Switch over!" Hayato and Shun revert the doctor and nurse outfits to become Westar and Soular, and jump in between the Sadness and the nurse!

"Soular! Leave this to me and get this person out of here!"

"Ah!" Soular picks up the nurse who is ducking in fear and starts running.

Keiko, a nurse, is alone and depressed at the nurse's station. She made another mistake and was severely chewed out by her senior. *Maybe I'm not cut out to be a nurse...* Becoming a nurse has been her dream since she was little, but she never thought it would be this hard.

Maybe I should stop now... Suddenly, when she thinks that, she notices a female inpatient in front of the nurse's station. "What's wrong?" As soon as Keiko makes eye contact with the woman, Manami, she is unable to move, as if she is in a stupor.

Soular puts the nurse in his arms down so she can escape from the hospital, and then he returns back inside. He passes by the nurse's station and sees a nurse with her back turned to him. "This hospital is dangerous! You'd better get out as soon as possible!" When Soular calls out to her, the nurse — Keiko — slowly turns around.

"Fushiawase! Get well!" Right in front of Soular, Keiko suddenly transforms into a monster, baring her vampire-like fangs!

"Oh no! I was too late!" Soular can't help but grit his teeth.

By turning troubled people into Sadnesses one after another, Demon Fist acquires a lot of "unhappiness", and each time he does so, he becomes more powerful and increases his dark power. He has gained so much power that he can skillfully sneak into even the smallest of dissatisfaction, which could no longer even be called a worry, and turn them into a Sadness.

For example —

Dr. Yamada, who was on duty, took off his glasses and rubbed the corners of his eyes vigorously. He has had a lot of emergencies lately, so he hasn't been able to sleep much. *Ah...sometimes I just want to take a relaxing bath and sleep at home...*

Manami appeared in front of Dr. Yamada.

"What's wrong? It's lights out time."

"My name is Demon Fist..."

A few minutes later.

"Fushiawase! Examination!" Dr. Yamada transformed into a Doctor Sadness.

Tomomi, who came to visit her boyfriend in the hospital, realized that her visiting time had already passed and she hurried towards the exit. "I'm hungry...I'm going to get something to eat and go home." Tomomi was busy at work that day, so she missed dinner. And tomorrow she will have to work early in the morning. The work is so demanding that she couldn't help but think about quitting the company.

Suddenly, a figure appears in front of her.

"Ah, sorry! I'll come back!"

The figure that Tomomi apologized to, thinking it was a nurse, turned out to be Manami.

"My name is Demon Fist..."

A few minutes later.

"Fushiawase! Attendance!" Tomomi transformed into the Office Lady Sadness.

Kobayashi, an inpatient, was secretly watching soccer broadcasts even after lights out. *No way! They got another point!* Manami appeared behind a frustrated Kobayashi.

But Kobayashi, who was engrossed in watching TV, didn't notice.

"We're running out of time! Hey!" Manami muttered behind her.

"My name is Demon Fist..."

A few minutes later.

"Fushiawase! Shoot!" Kobayashi transformed into the Soccer Sadness.

There is already a large number of Sadnesses wandering around the first floor of the hospital like zombies.

"Fushiawase! Zombie!"

"Hmph!"

"Fushiawase! Zombie!"

"Ahhh!" Wester and Soular fight to protect the remaining doctors, nurses, and inpatients in the hospital and guide them out of the hospital through the main entrance.

"Everyone, run away quickly!"

"Come here, hurry!"

I was unaware it would be this hard... Soular thinks as he gets the last people to safely escape from the hospital. He has heard most of it from Setsuna, but he didn't expect it to go this far. *There's a big difference between seeing and hearing...* Suddenly, Soular remembers the words of this world written in a book he has read before. For a moment he is lost in thought.

"Behind you! Soular!"

"Ahhh!" Soular returns to his senses after hearing Westar's scream, and at the same time, the Nurse Sadness, who is approaching from behind him, bares her sharp fangs and attacks Soular! *Ahhhh!*

"Fushiawase! Get well!"

But then!

"Pretty Cure Kick!" Passion's kick rocks the Nurse Sadness!

"Are you okay, Soular?" Passion asks Soular.

"Ah, that was helpful. Thank you."

Peach, Berry, and Pine also rush in, "Westar! Soular!" Love is surprised to suddenly meet Westar and Soular again. She realizes that

Setsuna was referring to the two of them when she said that she was taking measures.

"It's been a while, Pretty Cures! But this is not the time to casually say hello!" Westar says as he braces himself. From the back of the hallway, a group of Sadnesses rush in like zombies!

"Fushiawase! Zombieee!"

"Everyone in this hospital has escaped! The Sadnesses should be the only ones left!" Wester said.

"What about Ms. Manami?" Peach asks with a tense look on her face.

Soular shakes his head in response to Peach's question. "I don't know! But she's probably still somewhere in this hospital!"

"Fushiawase! Achoo!"

"Fushiawase! This way!" Meanwhile, the Sadness army is approaching!

"They're coming!" Berry braces herself.

"However, although there are many Sadnesses this time, they are smaller than the previous ones, so it might be easier to purify them!"

Peach nods at Pine's guess. "Yeah! I'll get to work right away!"

The Pretty Cures take out their respective Cure Sticks and get them ready!

"Fushiawase! Get well!" The Nurse Sadness, who attacked Soular, bares her fangs again and attacks Cure Peach!

"Nasty things, nasty things, fly away! Pretty Cure, Love Sunshine, Fresh!" Cure Peach's Peach Rod sends out a pink heart that hits the Nurse Sadness!

"So relaxing~!" Wrapped with the heart and purified, the Sadness returns to her original human form — Keiko, who was at the nurse's station.

Then, the Soccer Sadness shoots balls at Berry with a series of powerful kicks! "Fushiawase! Shoot on!" Bash! Bash! Bash!

However, Berry avoids the balls by moving quickly to the left and right! "Nasty thing, nasty thing, fly away! Pretty Cure, Espoir Shower, Fresh!" Berry shoots a blue spade from her Berry Sword into the Soccer Sadness!

At the same time, the Doctor Sadness wields a scalpel, and the Office Lady Sadness wields office scissors, and they attack Pine and Passion!

"Fushiawase! Luck!"

"Fushiawase! Attendance!"

However, Pine and Passion are quicker! "Nasty thing, nasty thing, fly away! Pretty Cure, Healing Prayer, Flesh!"

"Roar! Oh storm of happiness! Pretty Cure, Happiness Hurricane!"

Yellow diamonds shoot at the Doctor Sadness, and a storm of bright red hearts wraps around Office Lady Sadness's body!

"So relaxing~~!"

The Soccer Sadness changes back to Kobayashi, an inpatient, and the Doctor Sadness returns to being Yamada, the doctor on duty, and the Office Lady Sadness goes back to being Tomomi, a visitor.

"Huh... what the heck am I..." Tomomi and the others have no memories of being Sadnesses and are confused.

"Come here quickly!" The Pretty Cures and the others evacuate the purified victims and take on new Sadnesses!

Manami is on the roof of the hospital. "Hahahaha... Even if they defeat the Sadnesses now, it won't matter. I'm already filled with the misfortunes I've absorbed from stupid humans! All I have to do now is wait

for the time when I'll be reborn into a perfect form! Wahahahaha!" Manami stands on the edge of the roof and laughs out loud in Demon Fist's voice.

People who had fled the hospital were looking up at the scene from the ground. It looks like a female hospital patient is about to commit suicide by jumping off, and several people scream.

Kentaro is among those people. "Manami!" Kentaro sprints into the hospital as if he is being shot at!

"Aaaaaaaaaaaaaa!" Cure Peach shoots another pink heart from the Peach Rod. It hits the mummy and wraps around its body!

"So relaxing~!" The Mummy Sadness is purified and returned to his original form - Animal Yoshida.

"Oh, what? What on earth?" Animal Yoshida comes to his senses and notices that the fracture has healed. "Hey, my fracture is healed!"

"That's a bonus!" Cure Peach smiles.

However, Sadnesses approach one after another!

"Fushiawase! Madamadairu!"

"What is this? There's no end to them!" Berry can't help but scream.

Then Kentaro jumps in!

"Ah! Kentaro! I told you not to come!" Cure Pine immediately tries to turn Kentaro back, but Kentaro screams,

"She's on the roof! Manami is on the roof!"

"What! Ms. Manami!?" Cure Peach asked back without thinking.

"Ah! She looks like she's about to jump off! We have to help her quickly!"

Peach looks around quickly. To get to the elevators that would take them to the roof, they'd have to cut a path through the Sadness army.

Then, Westar and Soular make eye contact with each other, and they suddenly jump into the middle of the group of Sadnesses.

“Aaaaaaaahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!”

And when the two of them are back to back... "Let's go, Soular!"

“Ah, I know!” Both of them stick out their hands and release a powerful energy barrier! “Haaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!” It spreads wide like a curtain, and Westar and Soular, back to back, slowly advance, pushing the Sadnesses and the others back. Then, like the parting of the Red Sea, a path is formed to the place where the elevator was!

“Leave this to us and go!” Westar screams!

"Come on, hurry! Hurry to the roof!" Soular does as well!

"Thank you! Soular! Westar!" After saying that, Peach takes the lead and runs towards the elevator. Close behind are Berry, Pine, Kentaro, and Passion. Peach quickly presses the elevator button.

The elevator comes at just the right time and the door opens — but Sadnesses appear from inside the elevator!

"Fushiawase! Goriyou Kaiwo..."

"Uhhhh — let's take the stairs!" Peach and her friends rush forward, avoiding the battle and running up the stairs next to the elevator.

2nd floor, 3rd floor, 4th floor...the rooftop is still a long way off.

"Ah, ah....." Kentaro becomes breathless and slows down.

"Kentaro! Stay strong!" Pine, who's right in front of him, runs back and lends a hand to Kentaro.

"Don't worry about me, just go ahead! Manami... Manami, please!" Then, Passion, who up until then was quiet, suddenly stops.

Pine turns around, "What's wrong, Passion?"

"Go ahead!" Hearing Passion's voice, Peach and Berry, who are leading the way, also stop and turn around. "Westar and Soular cannot purify that many Sadnesses by themselves...I'm going back."

"Alright! Got it! Be careful!"

"I'll be with you soon!" After that, Passion runs down the stairs she just came up.

On the roof of the hospital, clothesline poles for drying sheets and other items are lined up at even intervals. Farther back, Manami is standing on the edge of the raised roof beyond the fence, facing outward. And now, Demon Fist, who has gained maximum power by absorbing the 'happiness' of many people, is trying to become perfect inside Manami. *Just a little more...just a little more, and I'll evolve into my ultimate form!*

Peach and Berry rush onto the roof, and a short time later Kentaro, along with Pine, who's accompanying him, makes it to the roof. As soon as Kentaro notices Manami, he screams, "Manami!"

"Stay away!" Manami turns around on the edge of the roof and screams in Demon Fist's voice.

"It's dangerous!" Peach suddenly screams. If Manami takes a step back, she would fall far to the ground.

"If she moves the slightest bit, this woman will die." Kentaro and the three Pretty Cures understand Demon Fist's words. Now, they know that both Manami's mind and body are completely taken over by Demon Fist. It would be easy for him to make her jump off the roof.

"Manami....." But Kentaro's face becomes determined, and he takes a step forward and shouts at Demon Fist! "I won't be fooled by such a bluff!"

"Ehh?"

"Kentaro!"

"What on earth..." Kentaro's sudden action surprises the three Pretty Cures as well.

"A bluff, huh...?" Despite being glared at by Manami's red, burning eyes that have been taken over by the Demon Fist, Kentaro doesn't hesitate and shouts out loud.

"I saw you being born from Manami's body! At that moment, Manami lost consciousness... In other words, you and Manami are one and the same! If she dies, you will disappear too. It's true, isn't it?" It's a risky gamble.

Manami smiles evilly and speaks in the voice of Demon Fist. "Then, would you like to try it?"

No! That's when the Pretty Cures decide Manami is about to jump off the side and they are about to retreat!

"Manami! Look at this!" Kentaro shouts and grabs the same dolphin key chain that Manami had. Kentaro tries desperately to talk to Manami, even though she is completely taken over by Demon Fist, and is glaring at him with fiery red eyes. He still tries to talk to her as Manami, not Demon Fist. "Manami, do you understand? This is the dolphin keychain you got from your fiancé. You were having a hard time throwing it away, so I bought the same one!"

When Peach sees this, she learns the reason why Kentaro, who is not her fiancé, has the same keychain as Ms. Manami. Kentaro laughs, but still finds it difficult to talk to Manami.

"Haha... So your key chain now matches mine!"

However, Manami mocks Kentaro with her burning red eyes. "Hahaha.....stupid. I have completely taken over this woman...no matter how much you yell..."

"Shut up! I'm talking to Manami!" Kentaro interrupts Demon Fist's monologue, holds up the dolphin keychain, and shouts again! "So you don't have to throw it away anymore! Come back, Manami!"

Then, Manami's red, burning eyes return to normal for a moment, and she murmurs in her normal voice. "Kentaro....."

Seeing this, the Pretty Cures smile. Kentaro's love is being conveyed to Ms. Manami! Everyone thought so.

But it only lasted for a moment. Manami, with her red, burning eyes and an evil smile, begins speaking in the voice of Demon Fist. "Hahaha... That's a shame. It's too late! I'm now evolving into my ultimate form!" The next moment, a dark black mist erupts from Manami's body and grows explosively, transforming into a gigantic monster with a large mouth!

"My name is Great Demon Fist!"

At the same time, Manami loses consciousness and slowly begins to fall off of the rooftop!

"Ms. Manami!" Peach immediately dashes and catches Manami's arm just before she falls off the roof! The entire weight of the unconscious Manami falls on Cure Peach's one arm! "Gahh!" But Peach swears in her heart, *I'm not letting go!* Peach tries to pull up Manami with all her strength!

"Aaaaaaahhhhhhhhh!" Berry and Pine rush there too, and the three of them pull Manami up!

"Ready — and!"

But in the meantime! Great Demon Fist shoots a mass of black mist like a bullet at Kentaro!

"Ahhh!" It hits him, and Kentaro is violently blown away. However, Great Demon Fist's punishment doesn't end there. Realizing that Manami's consciousness, which he should have completely taken over, is about to come back due to Kentaro's pleas, Great Demon Fist decides that it would be dangerous to leave Kentaro alone.

"I'm not going to let you get in my way." Great Demon Fist opens his big mouth! The inside is as pitch black as a black hole, and Kentaro is sucked into Great Demon Fist's body!

"Aaaaaaaa...!"

"Kentaro!" While the Pretty Cures help Manami, Misumisu Kentaro is absorbed by Great Demon Fist. They put Manami, who has not regained consciousness, into a corner of the rooftop and stand up!

"Wait! We'll definitely help you now!" They boldly stand up to face Great Demon Fist!

"Haaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!"

Meanwhile, on the first floor of the hospital...

"Hey, what's going on? Come on!" Westar runs through the hallway while avoiding a lot of Sadnesses.

"Fushiawase! Odryaah!" The Sadnesses are chasing him.

Soular is also being followed by a large number of Sadnesses in another hallway. "Come on! This way!"

"Fushiawase! Shibakudaaaay!"

That's right! Good, follow me! Westar and Soular meet in the lobby with a large number of monsters in tow. Waiting for the large number of Sadnesses is Cure Passion!

"I brought them, Eas!"

"Just like you asked!"

"We'll all be together against them!"

Passion holds the Passion Harp, "Sing! Rhapsody of Happiness! Passion Harp!!" Passion strums the harp harder than usual, releasing all her energy, "Rage! Oh storm of happiness! Pretty Cure, Happiness Hurricane! Fresh!" Countless bright red hearts emitted from the Passion Harp and surrounded the gathered crowd of Sadnesses!

"Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!" All the Sadnesses that are crowded together get purified one by one and return to their original forms!

"With one blow, all the Sadnesses...!"

"That's amazing, Eas!" Soular and Westar can't help but let out a voice of admiration.

"Everyone, this place is dangerous! Please evacuate to the outside of the hospital immediately!" Passion knows that Peach and her friends are still fighting on the rooftop. Many people, who up until then have been confused and unable to comprehend the situation, seem to have finally come to their senses and flee the hospital in a panic.

Passion sees that everyone has escaped, "Love.....They've all been purified...I...!" Passion, finally losing all her power, collapses on the spot.

"Eas!"

"Are you okay?!" Westar and Soular immediately over and hold Passion in their arms. "Hang in there!"

“Tooooo!”

"Taaaaaaaaa!"

"Haaaaaaaaaaaaa!"

On the rooftop, a battle is taking place between the three Pretty Cures and Great Demon Fist!

"Bhahahaha! You annoying flies!" Great Demon Fist swings his giant arm and tries to crush the Pretty Cures! Just barely, they're able to fly past it and dodge it!

"Girls, let's go!"

"Okay, Peach!"

"Yeah!"

The three Pretty Cures jump high into the sky! "Pretty Cure Combination Kick!" The three girls jump kick Great Demon Fist in very quick succession!

“Taa!”

“Too!”

"Hey!"

However, Great Demon Fist takes no damage! "It's not working! It's not working! Bwahahahahaha! I'll suck you all in!" Great Demon Fist opens his huge mouth and tries to suck the three Pretty Cures into his body!

"Ahhhhh!"

The three Pretty Cures manage to get out of the way just in the nick of time!

Kaoru's donut truck arrives close to the hospital. However, just a stone's throw away, the road is closed and the cars in front of them are being directed by the police to make U-turns and head back.

"Oh? Did everyone forget something?" Kaoru also stops the truck at the direction of the policeman.

"No passing through from here. Make a U-turn!"

Kaoru sticks his head out the window and asks the policeman. "Did something happen?"

"Yes, now turn around quickly!" The police officer has an abrasive attitude, but Kaoru says,

"Hey, don't be like that." Kaoru flashes something like a badge to the policeman, and the policeman immediately salutes and begins to explain the details of the situation.

Tarte, pretending to be a ferret, thinks to himself, *Kaoru, who in the world are you...?*

The people at the hospital have evacuated to nearby higher ground. Some of the local residents who have heard the commotion gather and watch the battle between Pretty Cures and Great Demon Fist on the roof of the hospital. Mixed in with them are the people who were turned into Sadnesses, such as the nurse Keiko and the visitor Tomomi, as well as people from Clover Town Street, such as the soba restaurant man, Daisuke, and Miyuki.

Just then, Kaoru's truck flies in, tires screeching. Tarte and his friends heard from the traffic control police that Sadnesses and the Pretty Cures are fighting at the hospital, and they realized that people who have escaped from the hospital are gathering on this hill.

Kaoru emerges from the driver's seat and looks at the roof of the hospital. "Something amazing is about to happen!!"

Then, Tarte, Chiffon, and Azukina jump out of the truck.

"Pretty Cure!"

"Cure-a!"

Tarte takes out binoculars and looks at the rooftop. He sees the Pretty Cures fighting Great Demon Fist. "Peach, Berry, Pine — Passion is missing!"

"Nasty thing, nasty thing, fly away!"

Peach, Berry, and Pine wave their cure sticks at the same time and attack Great Demon Fist all at once!

"Pretty Cure, Love Sunshine, Fresh!"

"Pretty Cure, Espoir Shower, Fresh!"

"Pretty Cure, Healing Prayer, Fresh!"

The pink heart, blue spade, and yellow diamond are fired from the three Cure Sticks at the same time, hitting Great Demon Fist! But they don't do any damage at all!

"Bwahahahaha! What are you doing? Did you think you could defeat me with such childish tricks! You idiots! Bwahahahaha!" Great Demon Fist's sneer echoes in the night sky.

"No...it didn't work at all!" Peach involuntarily bites her lip.

"The Clover Box, Love! We'll purify him with the grand finale!" Berry shouts.

Pine immediately counters, "But, Miki! Setsuna isn't here!" Everyone has become so desperate that they don't even notice that they're calling each other by their pre-transformation names instead of their Pretty Cure names.

"I'm here...!" Suddenly, they hear a voice. Turning around, the three girls see an exhausted Passion at the entrance to the rooftop, being helped by Westar and Soular.

"Setsuna!"

"I've purified all the Sadnesses in the hospital...he's all that's left!"

"Are you okay?" Peach is worried about Passion, who looks exhausted, but Passion smiles and says,

"Come on, who do you think I am?"

"That's right! Yeah! Alright! Then let's go!" After Passion's encouraging words, Peach shouts, "Cloverbox! Lend us your power!"

The Clover Box appears in the air... "Pretty Cure Formation!" The four Pretty Cures line up in a horizontal line and squat down into the set position! "Ready, go!" With Peach's shout, they all dash towards Great Demon Fist!

First, Passion throws the red heart she had in his hand to Pine!

"Happiness leaf, set! Pine!"

Pine catches it while running, "Plus One! Prayer Leaf! Berry!" She adds a yellow heart, and throws it to Berry!

Berry catches it! "Plus One! Espoir Leaf!" Adds the blue heart, and then throws it to Peach. "Peach!"

But then! "Guaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!" Great Demon Fist opens its big mouth and tries to suck in Passion!

"Ah! I'm being sucked in!"

"Gooooooooooooo-!" Great Demon Fist opens its mouth like a black hole and tries to swallow Passion!

But in the next moment! "Haaaaaaaaaaaaa!" Westar and Soular fire energy bullets that hit Great Demon Fist, saving Passion from her predicament!

"Setsuna!" Peach, Berry, and Pine roll away from Great Demon Fist and run towards Passion, who has caught up with them!

"That's it..." Berry turns pale. "I can't believe the grand finale was interrupted...!"

"It's cowardly to attack in the middle of a technique!" Pine can't help but complain.

How on earth can we defeat Great Demon Fist? Cure Peach thinks hard as she watches Great Demon Fist viciously fighting Westar and Soular. And they have to rescue Kentaro who has been sucked in... *Ah...maybe...!* Peach suddenly remembers what Kentaro had said. *If I recall correctly, Ms. Manami said that as soon as Demon Fist appeared in body, she fainted... Even that time...* When Ms. Manami collapsed in the kitchen, Berry and Pine were fighting against Demon Fist...

Pine asks after hearing Peach's story. "So, Love, are you saying that if Ms. Manami regains consciousness, then Great Demon Fist will disappear?"

But how could they do that?

"Kentaro!" Berry said. When Kentaro frantically appealed to her with the dolphin key chain in his hand, she remembered that Manami regained consciousness for a brief moment. However, Kentaro has been taken in by Great Demon Fist...

"Westar! Wave attack!"

"Right! Leave it to me!" Westar and Soular fire energy bullets left and right at Great Demon Fist!

"Muaaaaaa!" However, the Great Demon Fist absorbed all of it into its body! "Ahhhh, noisy flies!" As if to counterattack, he haphazardly shoots out masses of evil goo!

"Ah!" Soular is blown away by a direct hit!

"Soular!"

"Ugh!" Soular is hurt, and can't get up right away.

Westar manages to dodge one, two attacks! Unfortunately, he is unable to dodge the third one. He falls down in front of Great Demon Fist!

"Ahhhh!"

"Guaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!" Great Demon Fist opens his big mouth and approaches Westar, trying to swallow him! But then! Passion appears through short-range teleportation, grabs Westar's arm just before it's swallowed, and teleports again! Passion teleports herself and Westar next to Manami, who is still lying down.

"I'm sorry, Eas.... Ahhh! We're always being saved!" Westar grits his teeth and grimaces.

"Huh.....What's going on now? I'm counting on you!"

"Oh, really?" Westar can't help but smile.

Passion is thinking. *How on earth can I defeat Great Demon Fist...?* She turns her attention to Manami, who is lying unconscious. *Ms. Manami...* Passion has an idea after listening to Peach and Berry's story. Deciding that it's the only way to go, she tells Westar her idea. "Westar, I'm going to dive into the world of Ms. Manami's memories."

"Huh? What?"

"There must be a way to defeat Great Demon Fist..."

"Can you do that...?"

After being asked by Westar, Passion takes out Akarun, "Akarun, can you do it?"

"There's nothing I can't do-key. But only for three minutes-key."

"Three minutes..."

"Once that period passes, you will never be able to come back, and Ms. Manami's life will be in danger."

"Understood"

Passion nods with determination on her face, but Wester grabs her.

"Stop it, Eas! It's too dangerous!"

"Let go, Westar! It's the only way!"

Meanwhile, Peach, Berry, and Pine are in a frantic battle with Great Demon Fist.

"Haaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!"

"You persistent brats!" Great Demon Fist releases an energy wave that blows away the three Pretty Cures!

"Kyaaaaaaaaa!"

"Love! Miki! Buki! Three more minutes! Hold on for just three more minutes!" Passion yells with determination.

"Okay, Setsuna!" Peach wasn't able to hear Passion and Westar's conversation. But she knows that if Setsuna said that, then she must have a plan. There was no need for any further explanation to the Pretty Cures, who have an unbreakable bond of trust.

"You got it, Setsuna!"

"Until then, we will stop Great Demon Fist!" Perry and Pine shout bravely.

Passion gives a big nod and inserts Akarun to Linkrun with eyes filled with determination! "Please, Akarun! Take me to the world of Ms. Manami's memories!" Passion is enveloped in red light and disappears from Westar's side.

Manami's world of memories

There are many floating as balls of light — memories. Happy memories are orange, sad memories are blue, angry memories are red, peaceful memories are green, and so on; the balls of memories are in countless colors and shine like neon lights at night. Cure Passion is floating beside them. As Passion drifts along, she slips into a pale yellow glowing ball of recent memories.

Inside the ambulance, the paramedics are calling out to Manami. "Kudo, can you hear me? Kudo!"

Manami wakes up on a stretcher. "I... why am I in an ambulance..."

"Are you feeling unwell? Is there any pain anywhere?" The paramedics are quick to ask questions.

Passion leaves the memory sphere and goes back in time, searching for older memories. The next one she enters into is a faint purple memory ball.

It was Manami's apartment.

The doorbell rings. When Manami opened the front door, Love was smiling at the front door.

"Hello, Ms. Manami!"

"Ms. Momozono...you're here again."

"No, something earlier..." Passion enters into a glowing red memory ball.

That memory is of when Manami met Kentaro at a coffee shop in front of the station. *Memories with Kentaro...* Passion thinks that Manami's memories with Kentaro are the key to awakening her, and enters, deep in anticipation.

But —

At a coffee shop in front of the station, Kentaro tries to take Manami's wallet.

"Stop!" Manami immediately hides her wallet.

"I'll throw it away! I'll throw it away!"

The customers around them looked back at the two, wondering what was going on.

That's probably a memory of the argument that Daisuke had witnessed. "This isn't it....." In search of other memories with Kentaro, Passion looks at the memory spheres one after another.

Memories of parting with her fiancé on the rock wall.

"I'm sorry, I can't marry you..."

"Why! Tell me why!"

"I know it's selfish...but let's end this now."

Memories of Love's career counseling.

“You have a fiancé, right? You’re getting married next year, right?!?!
You’re super happy!”

“Oh, my story has nothing to do with it!”

Although Manami is confused, she finally gives up.

"Let's go back even further..." Passion, remembering that Kentaro is a childhood friend of Manami, dives deeper and deeper into her memories.

Akarun appears and warns Passion. "Hurry-key! We don't have much time-key!"

"I know!"

Passion picks up speed against the flow of time.

Deeper, deeper still....

Memories of the day Manami first started working at the school.

"Well, this is Ms. Manami Kudo, and she’s been assigned to this school starting today." She is introduced by the principal at the morning assembly, and Manami greets all the students a little nervously.

"Good morning everybody!"

"No...longer ago!"

Manami, a high school student, is receiving career guidance from her homeroom teacher.

“I want to be a school teacher!”

A middle school student, Manami, is handing out Valentine's Day chocolates to a male student who is her senior.

"Please take this!" Manami ran off, her face turning bright red.

Manami, an elementary school student, is taking a walk with her dog.

"Wait, here! Don't run so fast!"

"It's not even here...it was a long time ago!" Passion starts to dive deeper.

However, Akarun jumps out in front of her and blocks her path. "It's dangerous to go any further-key! Turn back now-key!"

"Just a little more! Just a little more!" *Kentaro said that he had been childhood friends with Ms. Manami since they were in kindergarten.*

Passion dives deeper and deeper, hoping for memories from her kindergarten days. Then, deep within the flow of time, a ball of memory shines brightly in a pale pink color.

I'm sure that's it...! Passion intuitively thinks and dives into the light pink ball of light.

Manami, a kindergartener, was playing with a boy in the sandbox at the park.

"Hey, Kentaro!"

"What, Manami?"

Passion eyes shoot open! *It's Kentaro!*

Manami, a kindergartener, smiles and says to Kentaro. "Well, when you grow up, Kentaro..."

“We’re out of time-key!”

On the roof of the hospital

"Triple Pretty Cure Punch!" The three Pretty Cures are fighting Great Demon Fist without Passion.

"Haaaaaaaaa!"

“Too!”

Westar and Soular also join the battle and are attacking Great Demon Fist too! However, even with those two, they are unable to damage Great Demon Fist.

"I can't be defeated by you guys! You need to know your place!" Great Demon Fist shouts as he unleashes an energy wave with all his might at the Pretty Cures!

DOOOOOOOOOOON!

“Kyaaaaaaaaaaaaa!”

From the high ground where Tarte and the others are watching, they can see part of the roof of the hospital being destroyed by the powerful waves from Great Demon Fist, and the Pretty Cures being blown away like leaves in the wind.

"Ah! Pretty Cure!"

“Cure-a!” Tarte and Chiffon can't help but scream.

"I can't look anymore..." Azukina instinctively covers her face with her hands.

"This is really bad..." Kaoru mutters as he returns to the donut truck and starts preparing the cafe. "It's not good if it tastes bad. After all, donuts have to be delicious! Argh!"

"Uuu....." Peach, Berry, Pine, Westar, and Soular are all too hurt to stand up quickly.

Great Demon Fist yells to the Pretty Cures. "Just give up! Morons!"

However, the Pretty Cures do not give up! Though thoroughly wounded, they use up all their remaining strength and somehow manage to stand up, even though they are stumbling.

Cure Pine! "I won't give up...I believe we will definitely win in the end!"

Cure Berry! "I won't give up... If I give up, I won't be perfect!"

And Cure Peach! "I won't give up...until I get everyone's happiness!"

"Happiness get? Hmph! You make me laugh!" Great Demon Fist laughs at the Pretty Cures and begins to monologue, "Listen carefully! Plus and minus, positive and negative, light and shadow... in the same way, happiness is the opposite of unhappiness! There is as much unhappiness as there is happiness!"

"Huh?!"

"Behind the scenes, when you all have achieved happiness in your life, there is someone who you have brought unhappiness! You are unknowingly making people unhappy! You hypocrites!"

"Love, don't be fooled!" Berry immediately screams.

And Pine too! "That's definitely a lie!"

Then, Cure Peach looks directly at Great Demon Fist with clear eyes and yells! "If that's the case, then it's time to make that person happy!"

"You idiot! Then there will be another unfortunate person..."

"Then I'll make that person happy too!" Cure Peach declares, with irrational emotions and without taking a step back!

And then—!

A red light shoots out from Manami's body, who is lying near the corner of the roof! It's Passion.

"Ha.....ha....."

"Setsuna!" Peach, Berry, Pine, Westar, and Soular rush to Passion, who is exhausted and falls to her knees.

"Are you okay!"

"Stay strong!"

"Love...take this!" Passion hands Peach a ball that's glowing pale pink with all her remaining strength.

"What is this?"

"Ms... Manami's...memories. I'm sure she...has forgotten, from a long time ago..."

"Ms. Manami's forgotten memories..."

"Take this to Kentaro..."

"Okay. I understand!"

However, Great Demon Fist shows no mercy. His evil eyes become even more sinister and he attacks the Pretty Cure! "Okay, everyone's here, right? Then, let's all go to the afterlife together! Let's die!

Stoonaoon!

Great Demon Fist emits more violent waves to attack the Pretty Cures!

"Kyaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!"

"Ah! I can't stay still anymore!!" Tarte jumps onto the roof of Kaoru's truck and stands straight on his two legs, forgetting his status as a ferret in this world, and shouts out to everyone watching. "Please, everyone! Give your power to the Pretty Cures!"

And Azukina also appears next to Tarte, "Please! Please share your strength with them!"

All the other residents of Clover Town Street who gathered there all started buzzing. "What? What, those animals! They're talking!"

"Ferrets? Some ferrets standing up and speaking human language?"

Seeing the people making a fuss, Daisuke clicks his tongue. "I don't care about that now!" Daisuke looks back toward the roof of the hospital, takes a deep breath, and tries to scream. "Good luck, Pret..."

"Good luck, Pretty Cure!" But there's someone who shouts louder than him. It's Animal Yoshida. Tarte and Azukina notice and look at each other and smile. "They won't lose! Go defeat that monster!" Then, a white heart appears on Animal Yoshida's left chest.

Next, Daisuke and Miyuki cheer on the Pretty Cures as they fight. "Good luck, Pretty Cure!"

"Good luck!"

Then, a white heart appears on Daisuke and Miyuki's left breasts. Furthermore, the people from Clover Town Street, the soba restaurant man, the flower shop girl, the old man from the fish shop, and the old man from the bakery, are all cheering for the Pretty Cures. Soon, white hearts appear on the chests of those people.

"Yes! That's it! More, more!" Tarte yells on top of the truck.

However, the other people — the people who fled the hospital and people living in the neighborhood — are worried and confused. Then Kaoru starts handing out donuts to those people. “Yes, you’ll like this!”

Then, a loud explosion rings out, coming from the roof of the hospital. People can clearly see the Pretty Cures being blown away from being attacked, even from the distance they’re at, and they instinctively look away in fear.

"At a time like this, I'm not sure donuts..."

"I'm really hungry..." However, Tomomi, the office lady who missed dinner, gives in to her hunger and takes a bite of Kaoru's donut. "Wow, it's delicious!" Tomomi can't help but smile, and she quickly eats the rest of the donut. She eats it so quickly the people around her take interest and begin eating the donuts one by one.

"It's good!"

“It’s really delicious!” Then, white hearts appear one after another on the left breasts of those people!

On top of the donut truck, Tarte's eyes sparkle. "Kaoru! Nice work!"

Kaoru's sunglasses shine! “No matter how unpleasant or painful things may be, you can relax while eating delicious donuts... happiness is like that. Guha!” A white heart appears on Kaoru's left chest as he murmurs and eats donuts.

Tarte and Azukina once again appeal to the people loudly. "Come on, everyone! Let's do it again! Support the Pretty Cures! Everyone's happy hearts will become the Pretty Cure's power!"

"Yeah, let's go! Let's go!"

"Good luck, Pretty Cures!" After being prompted by Azukina, everyone on the hill cheers for the Pretty Cures in unison!

The mark on Chiffon's forehead begins shining brightly! "Cure cure-a!" Then, all the shining white hearts on everyone's chests fly to the half-destroyed hospital roof where the Pretty Cures are fighting!

On the roof

The four Pretty Cures, who had been hit by the biggest shock wave yet from Great Demon Fist, have collapsed. Westar and Soular, who barely escape in time, hide behind some rubble.

"Crap! Eas!" They want to go and help her right away, but are unable to move. Westar and Soular don't have that much power left either.

"Stop it..."

"What?" As Great Demon Fist grins and is about to release the final shockwave, the sky suddenly becomes as bright as midday. Great Demon Fist looks up and sees white hearts filling the entire night sky. Then, they combine to become one big white heart and gently envelops the four fallen and motionless Pretty Cures in its white light.

The four Pretty Cures regain consciousness in the light.

Cure Peach wakes up, "This is everyone's heart..."

Cure Berry wakes up, "It's so warm..."

Cure Pine wakes up, "I feel so happy..."

Cure Passion wakes up! "I feel empowered!"

Then Pirun, Burun, Kirun, and Akarun jump out from the four Linkruns, spin around, and transform into pure white Shiroruns! "Key!"

In the light, the four Pretty Cures, whose power has been restored, stand up with determination in their eyes. "Let's unite everyone's hearts!"

The four Shiroruns are sucked into the clover on the left chest of each of the four Pretty Cures, and add an additional leaf on the clover. The fifth leaf is the hearts of everyone who supports the Pretty Cures!

"Change! Pretty Cure Beat Up!" The four Pretty Cures transform into Cure Angels with their wings spread!

"The white heart is the heart of everyone! Freshly-flapping! Cure Angel"

"Let's —"

"Pretty Cure!"

The light surrounding them disappears and four Cure Angels appear!

Westar and Soular look at them and let out a cry of admiration.

"Cure...Angel!"

"Beautiful....."

However, even after seeing the Pretty Cure's reborn look, Great Demon Fist still keeps his composure and laughs. "Hahaha...you're so persistent! No matter how hard you try to change your appearance, you can't defeat me!"

Zudooooooooon!

The shock wave from Great Demon Fist approaches the Pretty Cures, but before it gets to them, the Angels spread their wings and fly away. Their power and speed has increased several times!

"Soular! We're going in too!"

"Ah!" Westar and Soular return to the battle with full power and quick movements. The light emitted from everyone's white hearts has also restored their power.

Angel Passion shouts to Angel Peach. "Unless you heal Ms. Manami misfortune, we won't be able to defeat the Great Demon Fist! And Kentaro is the only one who can do that!"

"Okay! I got it!" In Peach's hand, she is still holding the ball of light that was given to her by Passion. *Ms. Manami's memories...Ms. Manami's heart...Ms. Manami's feelings...I will definitely deliver them to Kentaro!* Angel Peach thrusts out a ball of light and flies towards Great Demon Fist! "Delivering my feelings! Pretty Cure, Loving True Heart!" Angel Peach shoots a ball of light into the left chest of Great Demon Fist from close range!

The dazzling pink light overflowing from the ball of light instantly envelopes the body of the Great Demon Fist! "Gaaaahhhhhh!"

Angel Berry, Angel Pine, Angel Passion, and Soular look on with anticipation, and Westar, confident of victory, shouts, "We did it! We finally defeated the Great Demon Fist!"

Kaoru, Chiffon, and many other people watching from the hill let out a cheer all at once!

"Alright! They did it!"

"Ah! Tarte!" On top of the donut truck, Tarte and Azukina are also holding hands and rejoicing.

Angel Peach is excited too! "Now, Ms. Manami will be back to..." She was about to say "normal", but was then at a loss for words. "No....."

"Haha...hahahaha...hahahahahaha!" As the light disappears, Great Demon Fist is standing in front of Peach, looking exactly the same! The ball of light that was shot onto his left chest lost its shine and fell down.

"Our feelings didn't reach Ms. Manami..."

Berry, Pine, Passion, Soular, and Westar all stand there in shock.

"It should have been perfect!"

"But I believed!"

"I tried my best!"

The people who have been cheering on the hill suddenly fall completely silent. "No way..."

"That's... that's impossible!"

"Curea..."

Tarte, Azukina, and Chiffon are all speechless.

Angel Peach folds her wings and descends slowly, grabbing the "Memory of Manami" that lost its light. "I was supposed to get your happiness..."

Right behind Peach, Great Demon Fist is approaching with his evil eyes shining brightly! "Playtime is over! I'm going to take you in too!"

"Look out, Love!"

"Love!" Berry and Pine scream at the same time.

Peach turns around. The giant mouth of Great Demon Fist, resembling a wide open black hole, is approaching. The depths are shrouded in pitch black darkness. However, Angel Peach doesn't move at all and glares at Great Demon Fist with determined eyes and the next moment, she is swallowed whole by its big mouth!

"Ah! Love!"

"Love was eaten!"

Berry and Pine let out a cry of despair, but Passion, who saw the determination in Peach's eyes right before she was swallowed, said, "No... that's not true. Love let herself get eaten on purpose!" Passion's face turns confident, "To convey Ms. Manami's feelings directly to Kentaro!"

Angel Peach is wandering around inside Great Demon Fist. It's not a physical body, but a chaotic jet-black darkness with no vertical or horizontal directions, like a tiny world or another dimension. Inside, Peach is wandering around in search of the captive Kentaro, holding Ms. Manami's memory that had lost its light. "Hello! Kentaro! Where are you!"

Occasionally, Peach hears the sound of a blow in the distance, and the air shakes each time. *I'm sure my friends are still fighting Great Demon Fist.* The vibrations remind Peach that this is not a microcosm or another dimension, but the "inside" of Great Demon Fist.

"Here we go again!"

"Yeah! Don't worry, Setsuna!"

"Alright! Leave it to me!"

The three Cure Angels attack Great Demon Fist from all directions!

"Haaaaaaaaa!" And Westar and Soular do too; they boldly fire energy bullets continuously.

"If this is it, I'll use all the power I have!"

"Ah! I'll fight until I run out of strength!"

No one thinks that it's possible for them to defeat Great Demon Fist. They're just buying time for Angel Peach to deliver Manami's feelings to Kentaro, who has been captured by Great Demon Fist!

Angel Peach is at a loss in the chaotic world inside Great Demon Fist. She is starting to think that finding Kentaro without any clues in this infinite void is about as hard as finding a one yen coin in the desert. However, Peach doesn't give up and continues searching.

"Kentaro! Kentaro!" She keeps calling Kentaro's name at the top of her lungs. Suddenly in front of her! She finally sees Kentaro, who is unconscious and enveloped in a pitch-black haze. "Kentaro!" Angel Peach quickly flaps her wings, trying to get closer to Kentaro. However, the next moment, like a bunch of white blood cells attacking a virus, the surrounding darkness turns into a mist and begins to cling to Peach's body, trying to absorb her!

"Huh?! Ahhh! Ahhhhhh!" Angel Peach manages to dodge to the right and left and approaches Kentaro! However, before she gets too far, she is caught by the jet black mist! *Ah! I'm so close to him!* Gradually, Peach is consumed by the mist until all that's left is her face. Peach, unable to move at all, can do nothing but wait silently as the mist slowly absorbs her.

But I've come so far...! Peach laments her helplessness. But then, the air shutters again with the sound of an impact - everyone is still fighting! *I'm not alone! I have friends!* The light of hope fires up again in Angel Peach's heart, who was about to give up! Peach screams with all her might, "Everyone! Lend me your strength!"

"Ahhhh!" Great Demon Fist releases a tremendous shock wave, which expands in all directions, blowing away the surrounding three Pretty Cures, Westar, and Soular like pieces of paper!

"Kyaaaaaaaaa!"

"Ahhhhh!"

The roof of the hospital has already been destroyed to the extent that its original form is no longer preserved, and the Pretty Cure girls are buried in the rubble, unable to move at all.

"It's finally quiet..." Great Demon Fist, convinced that they had definitely stopped breathing this time, glances at the corpses of the Pretty Cures, and approaches Manami, who was lying – miraculously unharmed – in the gap between the rubble. Manami still hasn't regained consciousness.

"There's only one Pretty Cure left, who's still buzzing inside my body..." Great Demon Fist grins, "Hahaha...I can see what you guys are thinking...I'm sure you're plotting to revive my host's memories and eliminate me!" Great Demon Fist slowly approaches Manami, "In that case, all I have to do is incorporate the host into a part of me! Hahaha!" He starts trying to absorb Manami into himself.

At that moment, Passion's fingers, which are buried in the rubble, move slightly. She's not dead yet. Berry, Pine, Westar, Soular... In their hazy consciousness, with unfocused eyes, they captured the image of Great Demon Fist, who is trying to claim Manami as his own.

No, Ms. Manami...! Passion tries desperately to get up.

And Berry too *No! I have to stop him!* But this time, nobody has the strength left to stand up.

Then — Pine mutters something. "I just heard something..." Although she says that, Pine isn't confident at all. Maybe she's just hearing things. Pine desperately focuses her hazy consciousness and listens again—. She hears it again! Moreover, the voice is...!

"Love's voice!"

"Ehh!"

"Now..." Passion and Berry also listen carefully. "...lend me strength!" They definitely heard it! And it's coming from inside Great Demon Fist! And the next time, it's loud and clear! "Everyone! Lend me your strength!"

Love!

Love!

Fight on!

Just as they think that, a miracle occurs. The Pretty Cures, who didn't even have the strength to stand up, suddenly regain their strength.

"Well, I'm not done yet! I can still fight!" Angel Berry rises!

"Love is fighting... we need to too!" Angel Passion rises!

"It won't end here!" Angel Pine stands up! And Westar and Soular too!

At this moment, Great Demon Fist feels a sense of awe towards the Pretty Cures for the first time. "Impossible...you shouldn't even have the strength to stand up anymore!" However, he quickly dismisses that feeling, and he explodes with even more angry power, opening his huge mouth, trying to swallow Manami! "No! It's too late now!" At that moment! A white heart appears on the left chest of the five warriors who stood up!

At the same time, a white heart appears on Angel Peach's left breast, who is still being consumed by the jet black mist inside Great Demon Fist!

"Let's go, everyone!" The six people, with one heart, scream at the same time, inside and outside Great Demon Fist! "Deliver our feelings! Pretty Cure, Loving True Heart, Fresh!"

DOOOOOOOOOON!

The white hearts of Berry, Pine, Passion, Soular, and Westar are fired into the Great Demon Fist!

“Gaaaaaah!”

Inside Great Demon Fist, Angel Peach's white heart vaporizes the jet black mist that was trapping her body! Then, the hearts of Berry, Pine, Passion, Soular, and Westar, coming into the body from the outside, fly in and become one with Peach's heart, enveloping ‘Manami’s Memory’ in her hands!

At the same time, the Pretty Cures shout all at once from inside and outside! “Let’s go!” ‘Manami’s Memory’, which has regained its light, flies towards Kentaro! "Please! Please let my feelings reach you!" As if Peach's wish had come true, Manami’s shining memory hits Kentaro's, who is trapped in a jet-black haze, in the forehead!

That day when she was little and played in the sandbox at the park.

Manami, a kindergartener, smiled and said to Kentaro. “I’m going to be Kentaro’s wife when I grow up!”

Kentaro, a kindergartener, also smiled happily and said to Manami, "Yeah! I absolutely, absolutely, absolutely love you!..."

“I’ll make you happy!” The last words come from Kentaro's mouth, who’s still trapped in the black mist.

A tear falls from Manami's eyes as she lies unconscious. Manami then slowly opens her eyes. She’s regained consciousness!

The next moment, many rays of dazzling light shoot out from within the body of Great Demon Fist, purifying him and causing him to start disappearing! "W-what is this light? My body and consciousness are disappearing!" Great Demon Fist desperately resists, but the light continues to erode. "I-is this...the light of happiness? Happiness...heh, you've got to be kidding me!" Buwat! Great Demon Fist tries to release the last of his power to resist the erosion of the light, but that is the best he can do. "Don't think it'll end like this! As long as there's misfortune in this world, I'll definitely come back to life...aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!" After a final deathly scream, Great Demon Fist finally disappears!

A huge cheer and applause erupts from the crowd of people watching from the hill. "Alright! This time, they really, really did it!"

"Tarte—!" Tart and Azukina once again hold hands and celebrate.

"Cure~a cure~a !" Chiffon also looks happy and is smiling.

As for Kaoru, he is already frying more donuts in his truck. "Alright! Uncle is happy, so I'll give you all the donuts for free today! Argh!"

And Daisuke too. "You did it, Love!" He expresses his joy with a fist pump and solidifies his resolve in his heart. *I have to try hard too!*

The roof of the destroyed hospital

In the same spot where Great Demon Fist just was, now there is Angel Peach lending her shoulder to Kentaro.

"Love!"

"Love!" Berry, Pine, and Passion all rushed over and —

"Kentaro..." Everyone turns around to look at that voice. They see Manami, who has regained consciousness.

Kentaro walks up to her. "Manami....."

"I remember...the promise we made in the sandbox back then."

Manami smiles a little shyly, "Kentaro, you've always thought about me..."

Kentaro also smiles shyly, "It's kind of creepy... that you still remember the memories from kindergarten even now that we're adults..."

Manami smiles and shakes her head to the side, "No, that's not true." As she says that, she takes out the dolphin key chain from her pocket. "I'm glad I didn't throw this away after all."

"No...just throw that away."

"Huh? Why? I remember Kentaro desperately calling out to me."

Manami laughs and says, "You went out of your way to buy matching ones, right?"

"Yeah...but it's the one your ex-fiancé gave you...how about you take this instead?" When he says that, Kentaro takes out a ring case from his pocket.

When Manami opens it, there is an engagement ring inside. "Ehh....." Manami looks surprised for a moment, then slowly shifts her gaze from the ring to Kentaro. She remains silent, and the two stare at each other for a while.

"That....." Kentaro couldn't stand the silence any longer and is about to open his mouth when Manami suddenly murmurs,

"It's like 'The Blue Bird'..."

"Ehhh?"

"I had lost my happiness and had closed my heart for a long time, but there's more than just one happiness...I had been so close to it for a long time..." Manami smiles shyly and accepts the ring. "Thank you for helping me."

Wester, who has been watching the two of them, can't hold back any longer, "Achoo!"

The Cures, who have already de-transformed, burst out laughing all at once. And they congratulate Kentaro and Manami from the bottom of their hearts.

"Kentaro, it's perfect!"

"You did your best!"

"I believe that the two of you will be successful!"

And Love smiles and says, "Happiness get!"

Chapter 4 - Towards Each Dream!

The next morning

Love and Setsuna are walking to school like before. Because of yesterday's visit to class, Setsuna is allowed to attend school while she is in town. On the way, the two of them discuss the events of the previous night.

In the end, Demon Fist was a monster that was born when an evil power snuck into the darkness in Manami's heart, which was born out of misfortune. Only the Pretty Cures and Kentaro know about this. Even Ms. Manami didn't know the truth.

But Love and Setsuna both think that's fine. Everyone has a little bit of darkness in their heart. Everyone feels unhappy sometimes. Demon Fist caused some damage, but they don't think Ms. Manami was responsible for that.

Love suddenly remembers Demon Fist's words. There is as much unhappiness as there is happiness....When someone achieves happiness, someone else becomes unhappy behind the scenes. Therefore, unless misfortune disappears from this world, he will definitely come back again...

"Do you believe that, Love?" Setsuna asks.

Love answers immediately. "I don't believe that. I'm sure the day will come when everyone in the world is happy...it will definitely come!"

"A world without war or poverty... Demon Fist would never be revived again..."

"Yes! I believe that such a world will exist someday!" After Love says that, she suddenly starts laughing. "Ahaha! I'm starting to sound like Buki!"

Setsuna smiles and nods, "Not just in this world... Labyrinth too! And everyone in all the other parallel worlds too!"

After they make it to school, they find Ms. Manami at work. During homeroom time, Ms. Manami first apologizes to all the students in the class for her sudden long absence. And she freely admits that she had broken up with her fiancé, which has been a rumor among the students.

At first, the students are perplexed, but after seeing her attitude, they said,

“Do your best!”

"Fight!"

After the cheers from some of the girls, the class calms down.

"Thank you...!" Manami now tries to become a teacher with all her heart and she feels happiness in her heart. And when Love sees Ms. Manami responding to everyone's cheers with tears in her eyes and a smile, she thinks it must be great to be a teacher.

After school

In an empty classroom, Love is receiving career guidance from Ms. Manami. Ms. Manami looks at Love's recent mock exam results, and she nods and smiles.

"Alright! It's improving little by little, but overall! You did well!"

"Ehehe..."

Ms. Manami suddenly looks apologetic, and says, “Even though you were working hard as a Pretty Cure, you continued to study properly...I'm really sorry for causing so much trouble for you...

"Eh, it's okay! Please don't apologize!" Love says in a hurry, and smiles happily. "But it's okay! You were able to find happiness!" Remembering what happened in homeroom this morning makes Love grin. “I was so excited because I thought you were going to announce your

engagement right after you announced that your engagement has been canceled!"

"I couldn't do that! After everyone's encouragement, do you think I could say that I've already found my next fiancé?" Perhaps to hide her shyness, Ms. Manami speaks in an informal tone, as if she were talking to a female friend rather than a student.

Last night's events seemed like a proposal to everyone, but Kentaro apparently proposed again after that, saying, "Please marry me." Of course, Ms. Manami thought the same thing, so she was confused.

Love doesn't know if it's because of her serious personality or if it's natural, but Ms. Manami confides to Love that she likes that kind of thing. After saying that, she seems to remember that Love is not a female friend, but a student of hers, and she's so embarrassed that her face turns red. Love seeing Ms. Manami like that warms her heart. *She's really speaking from the heart.* Love has grown to love Ms. Manami even more. She really wants her to be happy this time.

"Hey, Ms. Manami! I found my dream for the future!"

"Ehh?"

"I'm going to be a school teacher!"

When Manami sees Love's smile, she says what she really thought. "Ms. Monomozo, I'm sure you'll be a good teacher." She really thinks so, but..... "Before that though, you have to pass the exams!"

"Yes! Thank you!" Love stands up, bows her head, and leaves the classroom. "Ussha! I'll do my best!" Love exclaims cheerfully and then starts walking down the hallway. She is completely unaware that Daisuke is right next to her, waiting for his turn to get career guidance.

"Great.....as usual, I'm being ignored..." Daisuke smiles bitterly and enters the classroom, replacing Love. "Excuse me!"

Ms. Manami waits for Daisuke to sit down in front of her before she asks. "Have you decided on your desired school?"

"Yes!" Daisuke answers cheerfully and tells the teacher which school he wants to go to. "I'm taking the entrance exam for Yotsuba High School!"

Miki and Inori walk down the embankment with their coat collars up. It's almost Christmas Eve. The people of Clovertown Street will take off work in the morning to decorate the giant Christmas tree in the middle of the square.

"It seems like the year has passed quickly."

"Yes..." Miki looks up at the sky with a nostalgic look, "It's already been a year since then..."

Even when they're adults, Miki will never forget last year's Christmas Eve. She revealed to her parents that she is a Pretty Cure in order to go rescue Chiffon who is trapped in Labyrinth, and in the end, she goes off to battle in front of the people of the shopping district. When she transformed into a Pretty Cure in front of her mother for the first time, her mother Remi, who knew that they were going to go into a dangerous place, stopped her and said, "Don't go, Miki!" After that, Miki heard later that the parents met, discussed, and ultimately allowed them to enter Labyrinth as Pretty Cure, but Remi was against it until the very end. When she returned safely, she couldn't help but ignore the customers and hugged her while crying.

I'm sure it must have made you feel quite lonely being alone... That's why, when her father asked her about going to Paris, she refused, saying,

"I'm no longer interested in modeling." She didn't want to leave her mom alone again...

But her true feelings are...

She hasn't talked about that topic with Inori since then. *Or rather, I haven't apologized properly yet...*

Miki suddenly stops and looks at Inori. She immediately meets Inori's eyes. Or rather, Inori had already stopped and was staring at Miki the entire time.

Buki must be thinking the same thing. Miki knows that just by meeting her eyes.

Then, Inori suddenly says, "You know, in order to become a veterinarian, you have to take the entrance exam for a high school affiliated with a university that has a veterinary department. But the entrance exam is extremely hard."

"It should be easy for you, Buki."

"Hehe...But, even if you study hard and pass the exam, the veterinary school is a six-year course, so it's very expensive."

"H-how much?" The amount that Inori tells her is far beyond Miki's imagination. "I actually gave up on becoming a veterinarian at one point because I thought my parents couldn't bear the burden of such a large amount of money..."

"Ehh!" It's Miki's first time hearing that. However, Inori's next words surprise Miki even more.

"But, Love encouraged me."

"Love?"

"Yeah....." Inori sits down on the embankment. Miki sits down next to her. "One time...I think it was when I was teaching Love about studying?"

Suddenly, Love asked me, ‘Hey, Buki, are you sure you want to be a veterinarian?’”

Inori told Love the same thing she just told Miki. At that time, Love had only said, “Hmm, it's so hard...”, but then she put aside studying for her own entrance exams and started doing a lot of research about the scholarship system.

"Thank you, Love!"

"Hehehe! But, first, you have to pass the high school entrance exam!"

“You’re one to talk, Love!”

"That’s right! Wait! You’re mean, Buki!"

“Ahahahahaha!”

Inori was given courage by Love's smile, and that night she decided to take the plunge and tell her parents how she really felt, and after a long discussion, she said that she decided to pursue a career in veterinary medicine.

"So...I thought it was my turn to encourage you, so I ended up saying something bossy to you. I'm sorry, Miki."

"No, it's me who should be sorry!" *Inori is worried about her entrance into higher education.* Miki starts to cry. "And yet, I... I said something terrible, saying that Buki, an honor student, doesn't understand my feelings... I'm so sorry!" Miki weeps like a child.

Inori has never seen Miki cry so much. And before she knows what’s happening, she’s crying too. After they cry for a while, Miki says, "I'm going to talk to mama too! How I really feel!"

"Yeah!" Inori wipes her tears and smiles, "I believe it will all work out!"

"Leave it to me! I'll definitely try to convince you!" Miki wipes her tears, smiles, and says, "I'm perfect!"

That evening, while waiting for the hair salon to close, Miki decides to tell her mother everything.

"Going to Paris? Oh, I'm listening, I'm listening."

"Huh...? What do you mean?" Miki is confused by Remi's simple answer, and Remi tells her that she has already heard from Katsuhiko.

"That's great! You'll never get a chance like this again."

"Huh...? Then, can I go to Paris?"

"What are you talking about? Isn't it obvious!"

"But if I leave, mama, you'll be all alone, right?"

"Hmph! If you're worried about that, we've already taken steps!"

"What?"

"As arranged with your papa, Kazuki will live in this house instead of you!" Remi smiles happily.

"Huh?" *What does that...?* Miki doesn't hear a single word from her... She smiles wryly and thinks, *Oh, of course she's like this. I'm sure they expected me to be considerate and decline the trip to Paris, so they made various arrangements behind the scenes...*

Miki had thought that she was protecting her mom, but in the end, she was just flopping around in Remi's palm, and she realizes once again how much love her mother has for her. *Mama is amazing...*

Miki says to Remi with a mischievous smile. "If Kazuki is going to live in this house...you should just remarry dad."

Remi answers without hesitation. "Absolutely not."

Since then, the days pass—

Inori successfully gets accepted into the school of her choice.

Then the day that Miki leaves for Paris arrives. "Please be careful and call me frequently."

"Yes, I get it, mama." The people who came to see her off at the airport are Inori, Setsuna, Remi, and Kazuki, but Love isn't there.

Because Love is...

"Please, Kaoru! Come and see it with me!" That day is also the day Love's high school entrance qualifications are announced. Love came to the venue accompanied by Kaoru and Tart.

"Young lady, you have to see this with your own eyes, right? Here you go, like this!" Kaoru looks at Love's face through the donut's heart-shaped hole. "Gha!"

Love then asks Tarte for a favor. "Then Tarte, please!"

"What are you talking about?" Tarte, conscious of what others are saying, whispers in Love's ear. "In what world is there a ferret going to see the results announcement?"

"Ah! What if I failed!" As she is fidgeting, unable to find the courage to see the results announced with her own eyes, someone suddenly calls out to her.

"Hey, Love." It's Daisuke.

"Huh? Why are you here, Daisuke?"

"Wha...I'm sure you're going to see the announcement of the results."

"Eh? So, you're planning on attending the same high school as me?"

"Uh, I said I'd like to...but you didn't ask me at all..." Daisuke says bluntly, feeling a little embarrassed.

"So? Did you get accepted?"

"Oh, yeah!"

"Congratulations! You did it, Daisuke!" Daisuke scratches his head as he sees Love being as happy as if it's her own success.

"So, don't worry about me, go watch the presentation!"

"What? Daisuke, maybe you saw if I passed or failed too!" Love instinctively leans in and asks Daisuke. "How was it? Did I pass? Or..."

"I can't tell you!" Daisuke responds just like Love would. "So, why would I know your exam number?"

"Ah...I see."

"Come and see it for yourself! Come on!"

"Ahh!"

Poshi! Daisuke pulls her forward, and Love makes up her mind. To be honest, she doesn't have any confidence that she passed at all. But she did everything she could (supposedly).

"Yeah! Well, let's go! If Daisuke passed, then I'm sure I did too!"

"What's that supposed to mean!" Seeing Daisuke getting angry, Love bursts into laughter and mingles with the crowd of people gathered in front of the board with the numbers of successful applicants posted.

"Haven't you gotten a message from Love yet?" When Remi asks this, Inori, Miki, and Setsuna all shake their heads. At the airport, Inori and her friends are waiting for a message from Love. As soon as the results are known, whether she passed or failed, she would be notified.

"It should have been announced a long time ago..."

If you haven't received an email yet, it might mean that you didn't pass the exam. The time to board Miki's plane is approaching. A boarding announcement would be made soon. She isn't going to be able to make it in time unless she starts the immigration procedures soon.

"I'm about to go."

"Yeah! See you, Miki!"

"Good luck! Miki!"

Inori and Setsuna take turns hugging Miki.

At that time — A truck pulls up to the airport. As soon as the car stops, the door opens and a girl with twin tails jumps out. On the body of the truck is "KAORU'S Doughnut Cafe".

"Miki!" When it's finally time for Miki to leave, Remi can no longer hold back the tears she has been keeping in and hugs her daughter tightly.

"Be careful! Please contact me frequently!"

"Yeah, you said that earlier too..."

"E-mail is fine! I'd really like to call, but that's expensive...Ah, but if you use packet communication..." Miki gently pushes Remi away, as the conversation seems like it's going to drag on.

"Sorry, mama. I have to go." After saying that, Miki looks back at her younger brother Kazuki, "Kazuki, please take care of mom."

"Yeah, leave it to me." Kazuki smiles and sends his sister off. "Take care!"

"See you then! I'm off!" Miki waves to everyone and heads to the check-in counter.

Love..... In the end, she hasn't received a message from Love. *I wanted to see you again...* As soon as she thinks that,

"Miki!"

She actually hears Love's voice and stops in surprise. *Eh.....* Miki quickly turns around. Love is standing there, breathing heavily. "Love....."

Both Inori and Setsuna are surprised. "Love! Why are you here?"

"Even though this is far from where the results were announced, I definitely wouldn't miss it..."

Kaoru appears after Love, carrying Tarte on his shoulder. "I got a little serious. Look, I used to be an F1 racer! Argh!"

"Huh? But the speed limit..." Inori unexpectedly butts in, and Tarte hastily excuses Kaoru.

"It's just a joke. We didn't do anything that would violate the law!"

Just then, an airport ground staff employee comes and tells Kaoru apologetically, "Customers are prohibited from dropping off their pets."

But Kaoru is in his usual mood. "Ah, it's okay! This isn't a pet, it's my brother!"

"Huh?" Tarte says unintentionally.

"Well, that's why there's no problem... Muggugu!"

"Hey, Tarte!" Tarte starts to panic, and Inori and the others apprehend him.

"S-speak!" Inori tries to make amends with the surprised ground staff with her best smile.

"Ah, no, this is...it's probably just my imagination...Ahaha!"

In the middle of the fuss — Love sends Miki away with a smile. "Have fun, Miki!"

"Yeah! But before that, don't you have something to tell me, Love?"

Hearing Miki's words, Inori and the others who are causing a scene suddenly quiet down and look back at Love.

Love smiles and gives a thumbs up.

“I passed, I got it!”

The end.